

VOICE OF ASIA:

CICA Digest

CICA Member States entrust Azerbaijan with Chairmanship role in 2024–2026

CICA Senior Officials start work on a charter of the organization

CICA Secretary General's working visits to Moscow, New Delhi, and Colombo



CICA Secretary General participates in Boao Forum, Antalya Diplomacy Forum, and Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

Kazakh parliamentarians visit CICA headquarters

CICA strengthens diplomatic ties through ski tour in Astana



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Foreword



As we wrap up the early chapters of 2024, I extend my warmest greetings to all Member and Observer States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). It is my honor to present this foreword, reflecting on Kazakhstan's continued commitment to CICA's mission of fostering dialogue, understanding, and cooperation for regional stability and prosperity.

CICA stands as a testament to the collective resolve of Asian nations to transcend barriers, build bridges, and forge partnerships founded on mutual respect and shared interests. In a world marked by complexity and uncertainty, the need for dialogue, cooperation, and confidence-building measures has never been more pressing.

It was my pleasure to take part in the visit of Deputies of the Senate and Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan to the CICA Secretariat in January, where my colleagues and I had the opportunity to engage in a productive and wide-ranging discussion about CICA's activities, functions, and current priorities.

In this digest, you will find a comprehensive overview of the diverse range of activities and endeavors spearheaded by CICA over the past 3 months. From diplomatic dialogues to cultural exchanges, from economic collaborations to initiatives promoting peace and security, each page reflects our commitment to realizing the vision of a harmonious and prosperous Asia.

Looking ahead, the trust and confidence placed in Azerbaijan by the CICA Ministerial Council to assume the position of the next Chair of the organization for the term 2024–2026 marks a significant milestone in CICA's journey. Kazakhstan's Chairmanship remains dedicated to laying the groundwork for a seamless transition and supporting Azerbaijan in its future endeavors.

I am glad to announce that the implementation of key initiatives of the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev in the economic, environmental, and human dimensions of CICA, such as the establishment of the Council on Sustainable Connectivity, the Partnership Network of Leading Universities, and the holding of the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders of CICA Member States and CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues have continued in earnest throughout a number of meetings of CICA experts in relevant fields.

In conclusion, as we embark on the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to the principles of dialogue, understanding, and cooperation that define the essence of CICA. We assure that the Deputies of the Parliament will make efforts to assist in the implementation CICA initiatives through parliamentary diplomacy. May the collaborative efforts of Member and Observer States continue to pave the way for a more resilient and interconnected Asia in the coming months.

Warm regards,

Aigul KUSPAN
Chair of the Committee on International Affairs, Defence and Security of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan



CICA Member States Entrust Azerbaijan with Chairmanship Role in 2024–2026

The CICA Ministerial Council has made a momentous decision, adopting Azerbaijan's Chairmanship for the 2024–2026 term and thereby determining the successor to Kazakhstan, current Chair since 2020.

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Azerbaijan's bid for CICA Chairmanship in 2024–2026 was welcomed and strongly supported by all Member States.

As Chair, Azerbaijan will coordinate all CICA's current business during the biennium and will host two highest-level CICA events - the Seventh Meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council in the second half of 2024, which will start the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, and the CICA Summit in 2026. This decision underscores the full trust of the CICA Member States and their appreciation of Azerbaijan's commitment to promoting peace, stability, and cooperation across Asia.

Azerbaijan, a founding member of CICA, played a key role in the organization's inception. It was one of 15 states attending the First CICA Ministerial

Meeting in Almaty in 1999, where CICA's first founding document was signed - the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States.

Azerbaijan currently effectively carries out its responsibilities as the coordinator for implementing confidence building measures in the priority area of developing secure and effective transportation corridor systems, with support of co-coordinators China and India.

Azerbaijan has been steadily augmenting its role and influence in regional and global international affairs. The successful completion of its chairmanship in the Non-Aligned Movement and its upcoming hosting of the 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29) illustrate Azerbaijan's robust advocacy for a multilateral approach to tackling urgent global challenges.

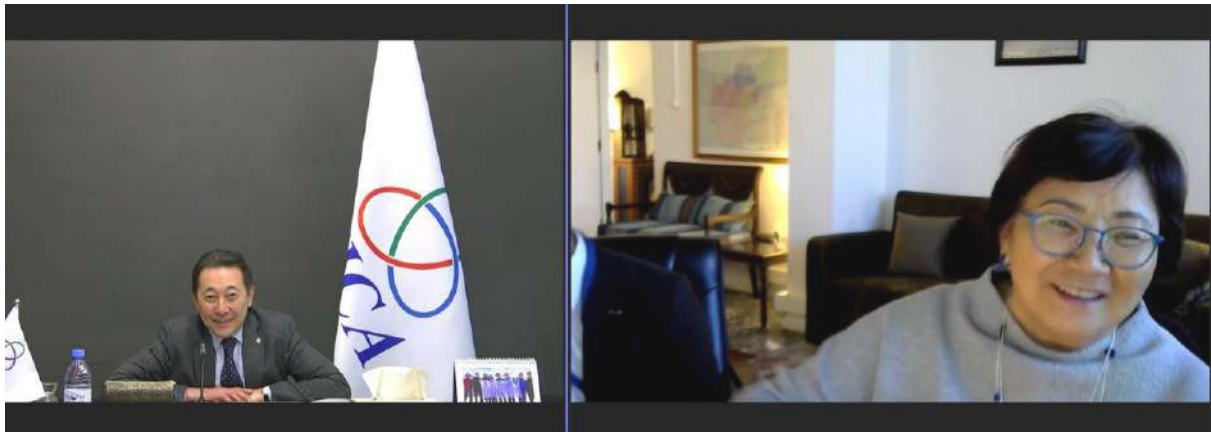
The helm of the CICA Chair was previously held by Kazakhstan, Türkiye, China and Tajikistan.



January

CICA Secretary General and UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan discuss situation in Afghanistan and areas of potential cooperation

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay held an online meeting with the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) Roza Otunbayeva on 15 January 2024.



The CICA Secretary General informed the UNSG's Special Representative about the processes in CICA and the expansion of its geography.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay highlighted the implementation of the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA, including the establishment and operationalization of the CICA Fund. The intention was expressed to cooperate with the UN agencies working in Afghanistan in the implementation of pilot projects.

Special Representative Roza Otunbayeva provided an update on the current state of affairs, the activities of the Mission and UN agencies, as well as on the main vectors of the development of contacts with the de facto government of Afghanistan. She pointed out challenges requiring

attention and joint efforts of the international community to overcome them.

The Head of the UN Mission shared the assessments of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, indicating a 95 per cent reduction in opium poppy cultivation by the de facto authorities of Afghanistan. In this regard, there is a need for increased support from international donors and actors, including regional ones, to assist Afghan farmers in transitioning to alternative crops. It is also imperative to focus on promoting the treatment and social reintegration of drug-dependent persons, including women and children.

The parties agreed to continue consultations between the CICA Secretariat and the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

CICA Secretary General explores potential collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators in the CICA region

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), conducted an online meeting with United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinators operating in the CICA region.

In his address, the CICA Secretary General underscored the importance of coordinating and amplifying multilateral efforts in Asia to advance the regional and global agenda. He expressed the CICA Secretariat's keen interest in leveraging the UN's extensive experience and expertise in capacity-building, reinforcing the commitment to shared goals.

The Secretary General provided insights into two major gatherings set to take place in Astana, illustrating CICA's aspiration to contribute to volunteerism, particularly among youth, and environmental stewardship.

The first highlight is the upcoming Rally of the Volunteer Movement Leaders of the CICA Countries under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council scheduled for May. The Rally is expected to bring together ministers responsible for volunteerism and youth policies to foster collaboration and exchange among the vibrant and dynamic youth communities across the region.

Ambassador Sarybay also shared details about the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues. Set for August 2024 in Astana, this conference underscores CICA's commitment to addressing environmental challenges collectively.

Additionally, he briefed the UN representatives on the operationalization of the CICA Fund, a crucial initiative designed to offer practical assistance to Member States.

The UN Resident Coordinators, spanning four continents, shared their perspectives on potential areas for building partnerships with CICA to effectively contribute to the achievement of SDGs



in the region. They recommended combining efforts between CICA and the UN to advance shared issues on their agendas and stressed collaboration in digitalization, particularly crucial for landlocked countries.

UN representatives praised CICA's commitment to multilateral solutions and invited the Secretary General to contact and further develop working relations with UN Resident Coordinators within the CICA region. They also highlighted possibilities for CICA-UN cooperation on the Global Digital Compact, youth, and environment, especially in the framework of the UN Summit of the Future.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, in response, welcomed the insights and views of the UN Resident Coordinators. He reiterated CICA's willingness to fostering cooperation on shared objectives, particularly in the context of the SDGs. The Secretary General concluded by highlighting the significance of aligning efforts to promote economic, social, and environmental sustainability in Asia.



БИЗНЕСТІҢ СЕНІМДІ СЕРІКТЕСІ



Kazakh parliamentarians visit CICA headquarters



Deputies of the Senate and Mazhilis of the Parliament of Kazakhstan paid a visit to the headquarters of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA). The delegation was headed by Chairs of the Committees on International Relations, Defence and Security of the Senate and Mazhilis Andrei Lukin and Aigul Kuspan. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Alibek Bakayev also took part in the event.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay reminded the MPs of the history of the Conference's establishment and evolution, its existing bodies and institutions and spoke about the ongoing activities of the Secretariat, as well as the process of transforming CICA into an international organization.

“Based on the organization's core ideas, CICA pursues a policy centred around the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of the Member States, economic, social and cultural cooperation to expand partnerships by developing multilateral approaches to bolster peace, security and stability in Asia,” said Kairat Sarybay.

In particular, CICA has fostered collaboration with the UN and its specialized agencies and established regular relations with various regional entities, including TURKPA, the League of Arab States, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and others.

Chair of the Committee on International Affairs, Defence and Security of the Mazhilis of the Parliament Aigul Kuspan expressed gratitude to the Secretariat's leadership for the invitation and emphasized the importance of the work undertaken by CICA, noting that this year marks the 32nd anniversary since the initiative to convene the Conference was first put forward.

Aigul Kuspan stated, “CICA has evolved into not only a platform for broad cooperation but also an effective institution of international diplomacy. We express our

support for the initiatives to hold the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues in August 2024 in Astana, as well as the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council.”

Deputy Foreign Minister Alibek Bakayev briefed the deputies on the major achievements of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA since 2020. He underlined that with the support of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev and the Member States, significant initiatives aimed at strengthening the platform of multilateral dialogue had been successfully implemented. The Deputy Foreign Minister also spoke about the thrust of the President’s initiatives proposed at the Sixth CICA Summit.



Engaged in an animated discussion, the parliamentarians brought up issues of the harmonization of customs control at borders, the development of international trade, cooperation in transboundary water resources and coordination among special bodies in combating illegal drug trafficking. The meeting participants discussed challenges in international politics, touching upon the escalating Palestinian-Israeli conflict, and deliberated on the role of CICA in addressing complex Asian security issues. “The uniqueness and strength of our organization lies in the opportunity it provides for states, including those without mutual diplomatic recognition, to come together at the same table and engage in negotiations,” commented the CICA Secretary General.

In conclusion, Andrei Lukin, Chair of the Committee on International Relations, Defence and Security of the Senate of the Kazakh Parliament, expressed appreciation for the thorough information on CICA’s activities and confirmed the parliamentary corps’ readiness to continue offering comprehensive support to the Conference across all its dimensions.



The signing of the Road Map of the CICA Secretariat for the Implementation of the Priorities of the CICA Chairmanship took place at the CICA headquarters.



CICA Secretariat adopts Road Map for Implementation of Priorities of CICA Chairmanship

The Road Map is a regularly updated action plan for the implementation of the rich agenda of priorities of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in CICA and all the tasks assigned to the Secretariat by the Member States of the Organization.

The document, signed by CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay and consented by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ambassador Alibek Bakayev, contains the 8 clusters of the Road Map for CICA Transformation, recently approved by the CICA Ministerial Council on the sidelines of the 78th UN General Assembly High-Level Week in September 2023, among other topics.

Beyond its strategic focus, the Secretariat's Road Map outlines the primary areas of concentration

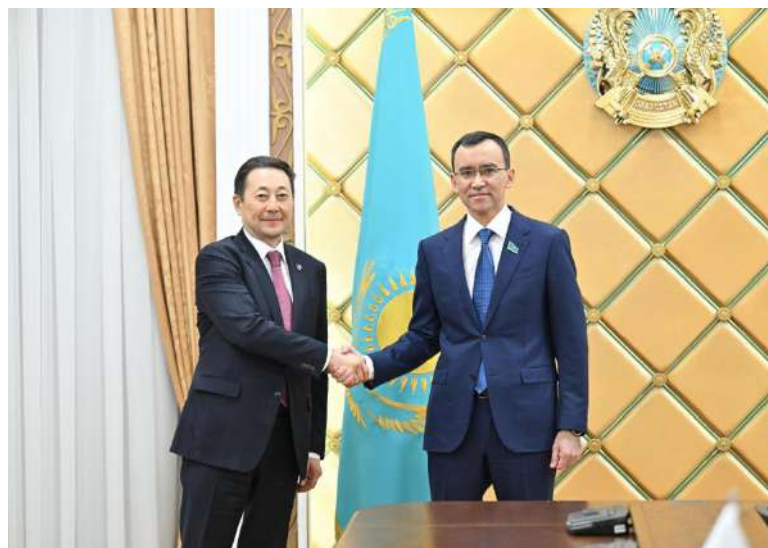
for the CICA governing and working bodies, institutional development, and collaboration with CICA Observers and Partners. The document also incorporates the Secretariat's initiatives to update concept papers and action plans within the priority domains of the Catalogue of confidence building measures.

In addition to its broader scope, the Road Map guides the Secretariat's activities related to confidence building measures throughout 2024. It also addresses ongoing capacity-building concerns within the CICA Secretariat.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay expressed his gratitude to Deputy Minister Bakayev and the Kazakhstan Chairmanship for their continuous support to the Secretariat and its activities.

CICA Secretary General discusses implementation of Kazakh Chairmanship priorities with Speaker of Senate of Kazakhstan's Parliament

Speaker of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan Maulen Ashimbayev received Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay.



During the meeting, Kairat Sarybay briefed his counterpart on CICA's achievements and current processes. Specifically, he addressed the progress in implementing the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation, adopted at the Sixth Summit in October 2022, which marked the 30th anniversary of the launch and practical implementation of Kazakhstan's initiative to establish an effective structure for interaction and trust in Asia.

The Secretary General acknowledged the substantial contribution of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the consistent advancement of the CICA process and emphasized the importance of the support extended by the Chambers of the Parliament.

The meeting also focused on the practical implementation of the Kazakh Chairmanship initiatives in CICA.

In particular, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay informed about the preparations for several significant CICA events to be held in Astana in 2024. These include a ministerial-level Youth Council meeting, the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders organized under its auspices, as well as the Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues. He invited the members of the Senate of the Parliament to participate in these events.

Furthermore, the Secretary General gave a detailed account to the Speaker of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan of the progress on the

draft Memorandum on the Establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities and the Concept Paper of the Council on Sustainable Connectivity in the area of effective and secure transit and transport corridors of the CICA Member States.

In turn, Speaker of the Senate of Kazakhstan's Parliament Maulen Ashimbayev congratulated the Secretary General on the success of the Sixth CICA Summit, the expansion of the Conference's geography, the introduction of new areas of cooperation to the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and the ongoing institutionalization within this structure.

The parties discussed potential areas of interaction, encompassing the promotion of renewable energy and green technologies, as well as the advancement of dialogue among civilizations and religions under the human dimension, including by leveraging the capabilities of CICA institutions.

Speaker Ashimbayev reassured the Secretary General of the Senate's support for the transformation of CICA into an international organization, the initiatives put forth by the Kazakh Chairmanship and the activities of CICA.

The counterparts stressed the significance of collaboration and agreed to further develop and strengthen contacts on all issues of mutual interest.

Secretary General discusses preparations for CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues with Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan



Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay met with Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Yerlan Nyssanbayev.

The counterparts addressed the preparations for the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues scheduled for August 2024 in Astana. As is known, the initiative to convene the forum was put forth by Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev during the Sixth CICA Summit and supported by all participants of the Conference.

The meeting covered substantive and organizational aspects of the upcoming event.

Minister Yerlan Nyssanbayev highlighted the relevance and timeliness of the forthcoming conference, underscored the Kazakh side's commitment to hosting it at the highest level and informed in detail about the updates on the preparatory work.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay commended the progress made in discussing the concept paper of the Ministerial Conference and expressed his hope that the draft outcome document would be finalized as soon as possible.

The meeting participants agreed to continue collaborative efforts.



February



CICA Secretary General discusses CICA transformation and other interaction issues during Moscow visit

Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay undertook a working visit to Moscow, where he met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Sergey Lavrov, held consultations with several senior officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry and engaged with representatives of the Russian business and academic communities.

During the meeting with Sergey Lavrov, the counterparts deliberated on the ongoing processes within the CICA area, the prospects for further development of this platform, as well as Russia's participation and contribution to CICA. The Minister reiterated Russia's continued support for the work of the Conference. In response, Kairat Sarybay commended Russia's efforts within CICA, the country's numerous initiatives aimed at strengthening the Conference and its transformation into a full-fledged international organization.

Ways of implementing the decision of the Sixth CICA Summit to launch the CICA transformation, the prospects for this process and its stages were extensively addressed at the talks with Andrey Rudenko, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia, and Alexey Ovchinnikov, Director of the Asian and Pacific Cooperation Department of

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia and the Russian senior official in CICA. The meeting highlighted CICA's distinctive role in the current geopolitical environment and the high added value of its inclusiveness and flexible approach.

The parties expressed satisfaction with the alignment of views and approaches towards the upcoming reforms. The meeting participants discussed the CICA activities scheduled for this year. In particular, they covered the preparations for the CICA Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders and Youth Council meeting dedicated to volunteerism (Astana, 16-17 May), as well as the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues, along with the Business Council and Business Forum meetings slated for the second half of 2024. The meeting also touched upon other relevant issues of interaction within CICA.

At the meeting with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Aleksandr Pankin, the counterparts considered the prospects of CICA in the context of the emerging network structure of interaction among multilateral mechanisms and international organizations in the vast expanse of the Eurasian continent. The important role of CICA was noted in the development of connectivity, including the strengthening of economic, technological, humanitarian, cultural and other ties.



In a conversation with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, the Secretary General discussed the current situation in West Asia and the potential of CICA in establishing a dialogue between interested parties in order to ease tensions and find conditions for sustainable peace in the region.

An exchange of views took place with the Director of the Second Asian Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the Special Representative of the President of Russia for Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, on the prospects for the return of Afghanistan, a CICA Member State, to the system of international relations and the possible contribution of CICA to international efforts to assist this country.



The Secretary General also held a meeting with Alexander Lukin, Director of the MGIMO Center for China, East Asian and SCO Studies, representing Russia in the CICA Think Tank Forum. Specific measures and initiatives were discussed to intensify this permanent mechanism for interaction in order to provide scientific and analytical support to all CICA Member States.



During the visit, the CICA Secretary General met with Nikita Bantsekin, Deputy Director General of JSC Federal Corporation for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Pavel Kondrashov, Head of the International Cooperation Directorate of the SME Corporation, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the CICA Business Council. The parties discussed various aspects of the CICA Business Council, its activities during the intersessional period, new initiatives aimed at supporting international cooperation among the small and medium enterprises of CICA countries.



Secretary General K. Sarybay also gave an extensive interview to one of the leading newspapers “Rossiyskaya Gazeta”. (<https://www.s-cica.org/ru/index.php?view=page&t=cica-secretary-general-s-interview-to-russian-media>)

This trip was the first in a series of working visits by the CICA Secretary General in 2024 as part of discussions held with the Member States on the CICA transformation and issues of interaction within the Forum.

Ambassadors of CICA Member States in Astana engage in informal dialogue to strengthen the organization



The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) hosted a working lunch with ambassadors of CICA Member States accredited in Astana, attended by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Alibek Bakayev as the representative of the Kazakhstan Chairmanship.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the role of CICA Member States' diplomatic representatives in Astana in facilitating dialogue among Member States and exchange of information between their capitals and the CICA Secretariat, as well as their contribution to the ongoing CICA transformation process.

At the outset, Deputy Minister Alibek Bakayev updated the CICA diplomatic corps on major achievements of 2023 and ongoing CICA priorities. He stressed: "I am confident that following the large-scale transformation process, our renewed organization will find its unique place in the network of multilateral structures for security and cooperation in Asia."

Secretary General K. Sarybay stated: "Most importantly, such informal meetings will serve as a supporting mechanism for consultations between Member States in addition to the existing governing and working bodies - the Senior Officials Committee and the Special Working Group."

In his address, CICA Secretary General K. Sarybay emphasized the evolving roles of heads of diplomatic missions in Astana within the framework of the CICA transformation process. He highlighted that their engagement is important for enhancing the effectiveness of dialogue within CICA and fostering greater interaction and information exchange between the Member States and the Secretariat.



Over the last three years, various initiatives have been undertaken within CICA to promote sustained cooperation among ambassadors and heads of missions accredited in Astana, including events such as Iftar dinners, Bicycle Tours, Summer Parties, Ski Tours, Football Tournaments, Hiking Tours, and the creation of the CICA Alley. K. Sarybay stated: “Each of these events has created great pleasure and satisfaction of their participants by bringing together CICA family members.”



As the main outcome of the discussions, ambassadors of Member States and Deputy Minister Bakayev expressed support for the proposals of the CICA Secretary General on holding such informal meetings regularly, in order to further strengthen the effectiveness of political dialogue and cooperation within CICA. They provided a number of recommendations on this matter, and highlighted that such events would foster a stronger sense of community and solidarity within the organization, promoting the necessary synergy to advance the CICA agenda.



CICA Deputy Secretary General participates online in 3rd International Youth Volunteer Conference “BRICS to You”

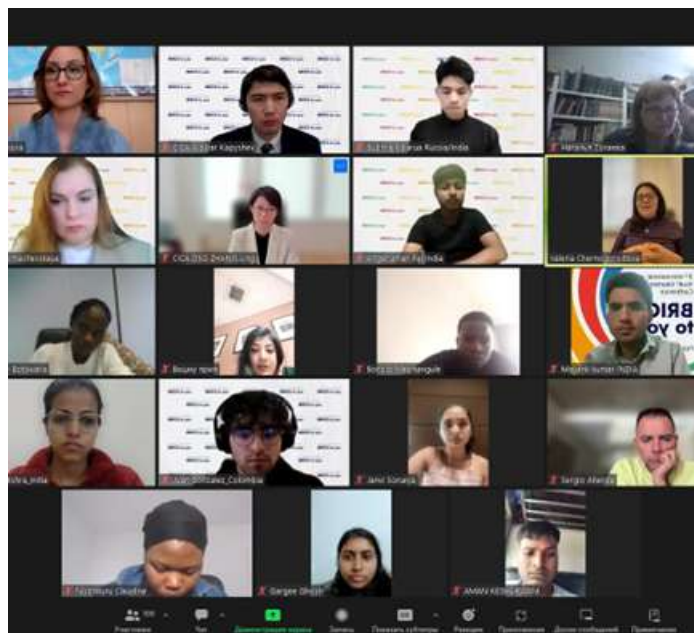
CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling took part in the 3rd International Youth Volunteer Conference “BRICS to You” conducted online.

The forum brought together youth representatives from the BRICS+ countries, in which several CICA Member States and observers are also known to participate. The conference participants shared their initiatives in the field of international volunteer projects and discussed ways to further strengthen international cooperation in this area.

In her address, Zhang Ling emphasized that volunteerism was one of the significant issues on the current CICA agenda. The Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development adopted by the CICA Ministerial Council in September 2023 is particularly important in this regard.

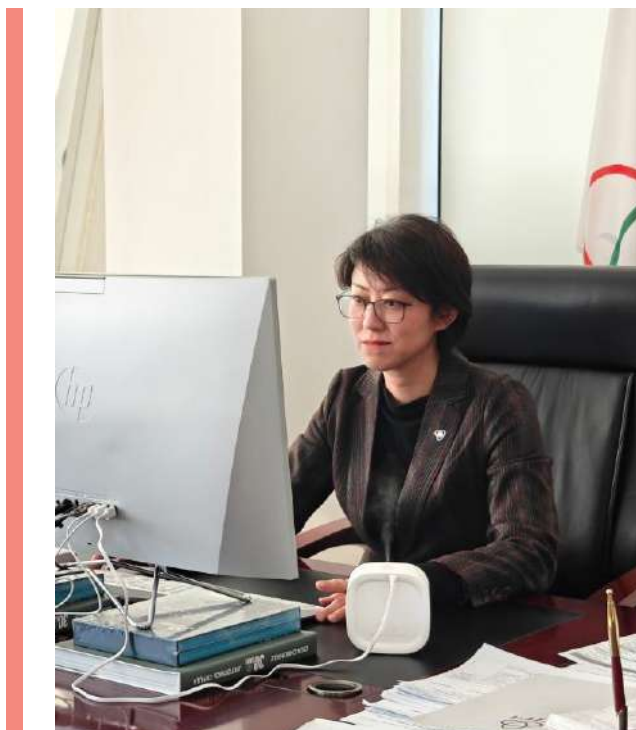
The CICA Deputy Secretary General informed the conference participants that the Kazakh capital, Astana, would host the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders of the CICA Countries under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council on 16-17 May 2024. The preparation for this forum is among the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA for the current year.

Zhang Ling’s address was received with great interest by the participants of the “BRICS to You” online conference.



CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling participates in Gender Theme Group meeting

CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling participated in an online meeting of the Gender Theme Group organized by the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Kazakhstan.



The meeting discussed the results of a sociological survey conducted by the UNDP and the UN Women in 2023 on gender equality and women's empowerment in Kazakhstan. The meeting participants noted the progress made by Kazakhstan in improving national legislation on the protection of women's rights and children's safety. An exchange of views took place on the preparations for the annual International Women's Day on 8 March.

In her remarks, CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling noted the relevance of protecting women's rights in the world. She stressed that this matter is of particular importance in the framework of CICA, which, as a pan-Asian intergovernmental forum, has a variety of tools for cooperation on gender issues.

Zhang Ling expressed the readiness of the CICA Secretariat to expand interaction with the UN and other international organizations in this area.





The second expert meeting on environmental issues sets stage for CICA Ministerial Conference

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan, with the support of the CICA Secretariat, hosted the second expert meeting, marking a significant step in preparations for the upcoming CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues scheduled for 28 August 2024 in Astana.

During the expert meeting, delegates delved into the outcome document of the forthcoming conference, carefully analyzing its key components. The collaborative spirit of the CICA Member States was evident throughout, fostering a successful and constructive dialogue among the experts.

As the journey to the CICA Ministerial Conference in Environmental Issues progresses, Kazakhstan's Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources remains committed to environmental cooperation across Asia. The collaborative efforts

showcased during the expert meeting underscore the shared vision for a more environmentally conscious and sustainable Asia. The series of expert meetings is planned to continue regarding the development of a unique outcome document for the CICA Member States.

The Ministerial Conference, initiated by the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, at the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022, represents a significant milestone in environmental cooperation in the CICA region.

CICA experts discuss draft Memorandum of Establishment of CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, together with the CICA Secretariat, held the second online meeting of experts to discuss a draft Memorandum of Establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States.



During the online consultations, representatives of the Member States considered and finalized the draft Memorandum and made a recommendation for its further consideration at the upcoming meetings of the CICA Special Working Group and Senior Officials Committee.

This initiative underlines the aspiration of the Member States to strengthen cooperation in the field of higher education and science and contributes to the development of academic ties among universities in the CICA region.

It should be noted that the creation of a Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States was proposed by President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022 in order to promote academic exchanges, joint research projects and cooperation programmes among Asian universities.



CICA Deputy Secretary General visits Nomad Academy of Choreography

Mrs Zhang Ling, Deputy Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), visited the Nomad Academy of Choreography in the capital of Kazakhstan.

In her address to the students of the Academy, Mrs Zhang Ling noted the important role of culture in establishing dialogue and bringing together different nations. She stressed the possibilities of building cultural ties and cooperation at the CICA platform.

The Deputy Secretary General and the Academy leadership discussed the prospects of cooperation between the Secretariat and the educational institution in organizing events aimed at strengthening friendship and promoting the cultural heritage of the CICA Member States through the popularization of Asian dances. Mrs Zhang Ling was presented with choreographic performances of the «Dances of the Peoples of the World» project by students of the Academy.

The Nomad Academy of Choreography is one of Kazakhstan's leading institutions of additional vocational education in choreography. Over the 11 years since it was established, the Academy has been a laureate and grand prize winner of many international competitions and festivals. The Academy is working hard to strengthen friendly relations between Kazakhstan and other countries and sees its mission as promoting the dances of various peoples of the world.





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CICA Secretary General discusses CICA transformation process and reinvigoration of advisory bodies in New Delhi

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid a working visit to India. The business trip included consultations at the Ministries of External Affairs, Youth Affairs and Sports, meetings with representatives of the business community and research institutes of India. Moreover, the CICA Secretary General took part in the Raisina Dialogue forum.



In the course of the conversation with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi, the Secretary General thanked the Indian side for its active contribution to the CICA process. He called on the partners to continue to participate constructively in the work of CICA and to propose initiatives and specific projects focused on practical multilateral results. Kairat Sarybay also drew attention to the upcoming Seventh CICA Ministerial Council meeting to be held this year.

Meenakshi Lekhi, in turn, gave a positive assessment of the activities of CICA and its Secretariat, especially in the process of transforming the Conference into a full-fledged international organization.

The CICA transformation process was discussed in detail during negotiations with Senior Indian Official to CICA, Joint Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs of the Indian Foreign Ministry Muanpui Saiawi.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay expressed hope for substantial discussions during this year on all eight clusters of the Road Map for CICA Transformation. He also invited the Indian side to take an active part in the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders, which will be held in Astana in May 2024, as well as in the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues scheduled for August.

The Secretary General also met with Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar, candidate for the Council of Eminent Persons, discussing with him the achievements of CICA in 2023 and plans for the coming period.

Of particular importance were the meetings of the CICA Secretary General with the leadership of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and the India–Central Asia Foundation (ICAF).

ICWA Director General Vijay Thakur Singh announced that her institute intends to apply for the chairmanship in the CICA Think Tank Forum. The parties discussed how the work of this mechanism can be reinvigorated during the intersessional period, as well as the prospects for its interaction with other CICA bodies – Business and Youth Councils. A number of thematic projects were outlined in the field of small and medium enterprises, connectivity and gender balance.

ICAF President Ashok Kumar Sharma suggested harnessing the potential of both the academic and student communities to enhance CICA's visibility through joint publications on areas of interaction within the organization, study visits, essay contests, as well as scientific and practical conferences.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, recognizing India's significant contribution to the establishment and evolution of CICA, invited representatives of Indian research institutes to participate in the symposium dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Almaty Declaration on the Principles of CICA. This event is scheduled for the autumn of 2024.

The meeting with Nitesh Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary, Director of the Department of Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of India, centred on utilizing the CICA platform to exchange best practices in youth policy and volunteering.

The Indian side expressed strong support for the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders of the CICA Countries, as well as for the regular meeting of the Youth Council at the level of heads of relevant ministries.

The Secretary General invited partners to initiate an intersessional event for youth, aiming to foster confidence building among the CICA Member States.

Ambassador Kairat Sarybay made a similar request to President of the Confederation of Indian Industry, a member of the CICA Business Council R Dinesh. The Federation was invited to hold various thematic workshops, arrange a business tour for representatives from CICA countries in order to strengthen interaction between the business community and government agencies.

R Dinesh confirmed the interest of Indian entrepreneurs in exchanging best practices related to SME support, as well as in closer coordination with other Member States on logistics, connectivity and customs procedures.

The CICA Secretary General also took part in a major international forum, the Raisina Dialogue, held annually in New Delhi.

During a session dedicated to multilateralism, Kairat Sarybay spoke about the successful development of CICA over the past 30 years. The activity of CICA serves as a vivid example of the relevance of multilateral mutually beneficial interaction in Asia. It is also important to achieve syner-



gy between the efforts of CICA and other regional organizations, including the SCO and the EAEU, to maximize their effectiveness. (<https://www.s-cica.org/ru/index.php?view=page&t=cica-secretary-general-s-interview-raisina-dialogue-2024>)

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay also met with representatives of the Indian media. The meeting participants discussed at length the history of CICA, the progress made and the prospects for transforming CICA into a full-fledged international organization. The meeting highlighted CICA's active role in supporting the youth movement in Asia, combating climate change and addressing other issues.

CICA Secretary General's inaugural visit to Colombo strengthens partnerships and collaboration

Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid his first visit to Colombo, Sri Lanka since the country became a Member State in 2018.

Kairat Sarybay convened with Minister of Foreign Affairs Honorable M.U.M. Ali Sabry and conducted consultations with senior officials from the Foreign Ministry of Sri Lanka. Moreover, he participated in discussions with members of the CICA Think Tank Forum and Business Council representing Sri Lanka, along with officials from the Ministry of Tourism and Lands, underlining the significance of collaborative efforts within the CICA framework.

During the meeting with Minister Ali Sabry, K. Sarybay expressed gratitude for Sri Lanka's continuous support for the CICA process and provided insights into CICA's achievements and prospects. Discussions centered around the transformation efforts and forthcoming ministerial events, including the 7th Ministerial Council Meeting, the Youth Council's Minister-level meeting along with the Rally of Volunteer Movements Leaders, the Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues and other key initiatives outlined by the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit.



In light of this, Hon. M.U.M. Ali Sabry noted the intended opening of Sri Lanka's Diplomatic Mission in Kazakhstan as a tool to enhance cooperation with CICA, expressed commitment to intensify Sri Lanka's activities within the Organization, including the encouragement to expedite signing and ratifying the Convention on the privileges and immunities of the Secretariat, and emphasized efforts to address climate change as a top priority for Sri Lanka, as well as Colombo's efforts to enhance tourist appeal.

Key items on the CICA agenda were discussed during the Secretary General's bilateral consultations with Mr. U.L.M. Jauhar, Additional Secretary for Multilateral and Middle East Affairs, and Ms. Sashikala Premawardhane, Director General of the Southeast and Central Asia Division of the Foreign Ministry. These talks focused on updating the colleagues on the transformation efforts and other key priorities of the Chairmanship, including upcoming events.

The conversation also covered ways to engage Sri Lanka in implementing CICA's CBMs as a co-coordinator of the tourism priority area, as well to enhance the country's participation in CICA's advisory bodies.

An insightful exchange of views also took place during the Secretary General's meeting with Ambassador Ravinatha P. Aryasinha, Executive Director, Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies. The ambassadors discussed various regional security issues and the role of multilateral institutions in a broader historical context, and explored ways to enhance the work of the Think Tank Forum, including its intersessional activities.

Moreover, Ambassador K. Sarybay met with Mr. Nalinda Wijerathna, Director of Commerce at the Department of Commerce of Sri Lanka, to discuss strategies for intensifying the country's engagement in the Business Council. The CICA Secretary General informed the Director of Commerce about the ongoing efforts to enhance the Business Council's intersessional activities, to promote its synergy with the CICA Think Tank Forum and invited Sri Lanka to propose topics for CICA Business Council's future plenary sessions and business fora.

Concluding the visit, K. Sarybay had an engaging meeting with Mr. Buwaneka Herath, Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Lands of Sri Lanka, and heads of the Ministry's institutions. The Secretary General encouraged Sri Lanka, as the co-coordinator of the Tourism priority area within the framework of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs, to leverage CICA as a platform to raise awareness about the country's tourist potential among all Member States.



CICA experts discuss sustainable connectivity



The Ministry of Transport of the Republic of Kazakhstan, with the support of the CICA Secretariat, held an experts meeting on 29 February 2024 to discuss the concept paper for the establishment of the council on sustainable connectivity within the organization.

During the fruitful discussions, the participants had a useful exchange of views on connectivity, and progress was made on the text of the document. The work on the concept paper will continue at the next experts meeting in May.

The initiative to establish the council on sustainable connectivity was proposed by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022. Institutionalizing dialogue in this area has become one of the priorities of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA for 2022-2024.



March

CICA Secretary General participates in high-level discussions at Antalya Diplomacy Forum

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in the 3rd edition of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (ADF). This high-level gathering, held under the theme “Advancing Diplomacy in Times of Turmoil” and under the auspices of H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye.

The forum brought together heads of states and governments, foreign ministers, heads of international organizations, business leaders, and academics to discuss pressing global issues.

During his address to the “New Dynamics of Cooperation in Eurasia” panel at the ADF, CICA Secretary General highlighted CICA’s role as pan-Asian intergovernmental platform, promoting comprehensive approaches to security and complementing other regional organizations in ensuring peace, connectivity and development across Asia and beyond.

On the sidelines of the forum, Ambassador K.Sarybay held a series of bilateral meetings with representatives of CICA Member States, observers, and partner organizations. Discussions centered on the active CICA agenda for 2024, including forthcoming events such as the Youth Council meeting at the ministerial level followed by the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders (16-17 May, Astana), a Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues (28 August, Astana) and the 7th CICA Ministerial Council in autumn. Discussions delved into the latest developments within ongoing transformation processes and explored avenues for enhancing collaboration and synergy with diverse multilateral initiatives.

CICA Secretary General held bilateral meeting with Deputy Prime-Minister-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq Dr. Fuad Hussein. He expressed gratitude for Iraq’s contribution to the CICA Fund and its initiatives to strengthen CICA’s counter-terrorism domain. Ambassador K.Sarybay also conveyed his hope to greet high-level representatives of Iraq at important events within the CICA framework.

During a fruitful meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Jeyhun Bairamov, Ambassador K.Sarybay discussed potential synergy between CICA and Azerbaijan’s diverse multilateral efforts. The meeting focused on promoting sustainable connectivity and addressing climate change, with K.Sarybay expressing encouragement at Azerbaijan’s positive developments in regional security approaches. Both parties explored the possibility of organizing a CICA event during the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (November 2024, Baku).

Challenges to regional security, including the reintegration of Afghanistan into the international community, were discussed during a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Muhridin. Interlocutors agreed to speed up ratification by Tajikistan of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel, and Representatives of Members of CICA.



Secretary General's meeting with Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, was marked by commendation for Bangladesh's leadership in environmental protection as the co-coordinator of the implementation of relevant confidence building measures. He also acknowledged Bangladesh's active role in CICA transformation process and its ratification of the CICA Convention on Privileges and Immunities in 2023.

Ambassador K.Sarybay had substantive deliberations with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Jeenbek Kulubaev, appreciating consistent support for CICA activities and discussing upcoming events such as the seventh plenary session of CICA Business Council and the ninth Business Forum in Bishkek scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2024.

In discussions with Undersecretary for Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain Dr. Shaikh Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, K.Sarybay highlighted the importance of West Asia and its subregional mechanisms for cooperation within CICA. Both sides agreed to advance CICA Think Tank Forum activities, ensure equal geographical representation in the CICA Secretariat, and promote multilingualism.

Furthermore, Secretary General engaged in substantive dialogue with Nilvana Darama, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, focusing on the implementation of the Road Map of Transformation and other CICA agenda items for 2024. He expressed appreciation for continued support and proactive engagement within the CICA framework, including the implementation of CICA confidence building measures.

During a meeting with Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), K. Sarybay explored CICA's potential as a broad outreach platform to scale up ECO's projects in connectivity and intraregional trade. Both sides exchanged their organizations' 2024 agendas, which included high-level events, and discussed ways to enhance the institutional framework of their interactions.

Secretary General's consultation with Ambassador Hossam Zaki, Assistant Secretary General and Head of the Office of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, explored potential synergies between CICA and LAS, along with reciprocal participation in high-level events, adding depth to regional cooperation efforts.



As part of the visit's formal agenda, Ambassador K. Sarybay gave an interview to an international Turkish TV channel TRT AVAZ, highlighting the significance of the ADF for addressing pressing regional and global issues. He underscored Türkiye's pivotal role in international affairs, its economic development, trade advancements, technological progress, and its influence in global arena.

Expressing gratitude for the timely organization of the 3rd ADF, Ambassador K.Sarybay met with Türkiye's Deputy Foreign Minister, Burak Akçapar, acknowledging the forum's pivotal role in fostering dialogue on regional development, peace, and security challenges and opportunities.

CICA Secretary General participates in the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development held in Beirut, Lebanon, at the invitation extended by Dr. Rola Dashti, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Ambassador Sarybay delivered remarks during Plenary Session 2, titled «Looking Ahead to the Summit of the Future.» He shared insights into CICA's remarkable journey over 30 years, starting from its inception as an initiative announced at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly to its ongoing transformation launched at the Sixth Summit in October 2022, held in Astana.

K. Sarybay also highlighted CICA's recent expansion, with Kuwait welcomed as a new full-fledged member in 2022 and observer status granted to Saudi Arabia in 2023, while Morocco's application is currently under consideration.

In his intervention, the Secretary General accentuated CICA's «Asian approach,» which underscores unity amidst diversity, focusing on commonalities across the continent. He reiterated that the CICA's ongoing transformation aims to reflect Asia's new role in global economic and political development.

Recognizing the bridging role of the 8 member states of CICA, who are also integral members of ESCWA and the Arab League, Ambassador Sarybay emphasized the CICA Secretariat's pursuit of synergies with these two key regional stakeholders. This collaboration aims to make substantial contributions towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region, benefiting not only Asia but also extending beyond its borders.



Reflecting on CICA's efforts towards advancing SDGs, K. Sarybay underscored the agenda of CICA's advisory body, the Business Council, over the past two years. The Business Council has focused on topics such as digitalization of business processes in SMEs, food security, renewable energy, and green financing, prioritizing sustainable development in SMEs, leveraging AI for SME development, enhancing cross-border trade through e-commerce advancements, and other related areas.

Looking forward, Secretary General informed participants of CICA's major events in 2024, including the Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues scheduled for 28 August in Astana. He also spotlighted that recently, Kazakhstan, under its CICA Chairmanship, provided humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, contributing to global efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in the region.

K. Sarybay stressed that resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the two-state solution is indispensable for lasting peace in West Asia. The CICA Secretary General brought to the attention of the Panel participants that the CICA is the only multilateral forum where Palestine and Israel are members on an equal footing.

Ambassador K. Sarybay conveyed his gratitude to Dr. Dashti for extending the excellent opportunity to showcase the CICA's priorities at the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development.

During the meeting, parties explored various avenues for potential collaboration, including in the realm of education. Ambassador Sarybay provided an overview to Executive Secretary Dr. Dashti on the series of high-level events planned by CICA for 2024, the implementation of priorities set forth during Kazakhstan's Chairmanship, and the ongoing efforts and ideas of the CICA Secretariat to synergize the activities of its various bodies, including the Business Council - Think Tank Forum, and Youth Council - Business Council.



In agreement, both sides affirmed the importance of maintaining communication channels to foster collaboration in advancing the SDGs across Asia, acknowledging the potential for these endeavors to reverberate on a global scale.

CICA Special Working Group holds its first meeting in 2024

The CICA Secretariat hosted the first meeting of the CICA Special Working Group (SWG) in 2024, chaired by Mr. Talgat Kaliyev, Ambassador-at-Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



In preparation for the upcoming Senior Officials Committee meeting on 14 March 2024, the SWG considered a number of issues and documents on the current CICA agenda. It finalized the draft Memorandum of Establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of CICA Member States, one of the priorities outlined by the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022.

Member States also considered the draft annual plan of the CICA Think Tank Forum for 2024, which is set to include a symposium dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between CICA Member States.

The SWG discussed prospects of establishing relations between CICA and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

The SWG also recommended for SOC approval a procedure for publishing national documents on volunteerism on the CICA website on the basis of consensus, and discussed other ongoing CICA activities.



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CICA Senior Officials start work on a charter of the organization and recommend Azerbaijan as next Chair in 2024-2026



High-level representatives of CICA Member States, the Kazakhstan Chairmanship and the CICA Secretariat convened at the CICA Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting to consider issues such as the upcoming 2024-2026 CICA Chairmanship, the implementation of the Road Map for CICA Transformation (RMT), establishment of a Partnership Network of Leading Universities of CICA Member States, future cooperation with other international organizations, and other Chairmanship priorities.

The Kazakhstan Chairmanship reported on the progress achieved and presented plans on implementation of the CICA RMT. The organization's transformation is set to be a structured, results-oriented, gradual, but not protracted process.

The SOC held its first detailed discussion of 4 out of 8 clusters of the RMT, including elements of a future charter of CICA. In particular, the Member States paved the way for elaboration of the charter as a quintessence and culmination of the transformation process. New areas of cooperation within the organization and updating its Rules of Procedure were also deliberated at the meeting.

The issue of the next CICA Chairmanship was considered by the SOC in detail. Following discussions, the SOC recommended to the CICA Ministerial Council that it adopt a decision on the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan in the years 2024-2026 through a silence procedure.

The SOC also approved a draft Memorandum on the Establishment of a Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States for adoption by the Ministerial Council. This network will serve as a mechanism aimed at promoting cooperation among educational institutions, academic exchange, and joint research projects between universities in Asia.

The Chairmanship then updated the SOC on the ongoing work on key initiatives of the Chairmanship outlined at the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022. Delegates discussed the implementation of initiatives such as convening the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders of CICA Member States under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council, institutionalizing the CICA Finance Summit, and establishing a CICA Council for Sustainable Connectivity.

Senior Officials emphasized the relevance of volunteerism and welcomed the initiative to share national policies, strategies, research and best practices in this area on the CICA website on the basis of consensus.

The SOC also considered the draft annual action plan of the CICA Think Tank Forum for 2024. Facilitating effective intellectual collaboration among think tanks and research institutions of Member States remains a priority for the organization.

In order to create and further develop effective synergies with other international organizations, Senior Officials approved establishing partnership relations between CICA and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay presented a financial report of the CICA Secretariat for 2023 and Member States expressed appreciation to the Secretary General for effective management of financial resources throughout the year.



CICA strengthens diplomatic ties through ski tour in Astana

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, with the support of the Akimat (Mayor's Office) of Astana, organized a ski tour for the second time, with the participation of ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic missions accredited in the capital of Kazakhstan. The event marked the end of the winter season.



Expressing gratitude to the skiing enthusiasts, the CICA Secretary General underscored the significance of such events for building confidence and people-to-people contacts. Ambassador Kairat Sarybay provided a brief overview of the key events shaping CICA's trajectory in 2024, and highlighted the significance of the latest Senior Officials Committee recommendation on the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan in the years 2024-2026.

Over the last three years, the CICA Secretariat has undertaken several initiatives to promote closer cooperation among heads of diplomatic missions accredited in Astana, including events such as hiking tours and the creation of the CICA Alley, bicycle tours, ski tours, football tournaments, iftar dinners, and summer parties.



CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participates in Boao Forum for Asia 2024



The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2024, held under the theme “Asia and the World: Common Challenges, Shared Responsibilities.”

The Forum brought together heads of states and governments, leaders of international organizations, top executives from national and commercial banks, influential business figures, as well as representatives from think tanks and academia, to discuss pressing global matters. With over 2,000 delegates hailing from 60 countries and regions, the Forum served as a platform for high-level discourse, facilitating comprehensive exchanges and broad cooperation among all participating entities.

During his speech at the Opening Ceremony, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev underlined the relevance of advancing multilateral mechanisms in addressing global and regional issues, highlighting the current Chairmanship of Kazakhstan in CICA.

CICA Secretary General delivered an address at the panel discussion titled “The Global Security Initiative: Addressing Security Challenges and Promoting World Peace.” The Global Security Initiative (GSI) is a mechanism proposed by President Xi Jinping of China aimed at addressing complex security challenges through peaceful dialogue and cooperation.

Drawing attention to the escalating rivalry among global powers and its impact on conflicts worldwide, Ambassador Sarybay emphasized the critical role of multilateralism and inclusivity in ensuring peace and stability, notably in the Asian region. He stressed out that “during these challenging times, the GSI, put forward by President Xi Jinping of China, is of particular importance.” He stated that “the six core concepts and principles as well as twenty priorities of cooperation reflected in the GSI offer a compelling and realistic framework for resolving disputes between nations through peaceful dialogue.”

Ambassador Sarybay noted the alignment of the principles and priorities of CICA with those of GSI, emphasizing the importance of trust, mutual respect, and dialogue in fostering peace and security. He condemned the escalating violence in West Asia and highlighted the potential of CICA to contribute to peacemaking efforts in Asia.

Ambassador Sarybay emphasized the historic significance of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs as a testament to joint efforts in bolstering mutual security through confidence building, and expressed belief in the future of international security through dialogue, multilateral diplomacy and collective action.

He also outlined the key role and importance of regional cooperation, inclusivity, adherence to multilateralism and international law, and commitment to peaceful conflict resolution through dialogue and confidence building measures among Member States.

Secretary General concluded his address by highlighting the synergy between CICA objectives and GSI goals. He remarked on the active engagement of China in peacemaking and peacekeeping efforts, including in the CICA area. As pointed out at the same panel session by Chen Xiaodong, Member of the CPC Committee, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, the GSI recognizes CICA as an important instrument for Asian and global security.



Congratulations to MNU colleagues on the opening of the applied research center MIND (Maqsut Narikbayev Institute for Network and Development)!

CICA Secretary General emphasized the vital role of academia in advancing SDGs, CICA agenda and connectivity.

Ambassador K. Sarybay briefed on enhanced activities of CICA Think Tank Forum and efforts to establish the partnership network of leading universities of CICA Member States.



Meeting with media representatives of India on a number of key topics

Discussed the history, functions and potentials of CICA, its Transformation process, as well as CICA's work in supporting youth, combating climate change, and other aspects



During CICA Secretary General's mission to South Asia, contributions were made to the work of the Raisina Dialogue.

Highlighted relevance of multilateralism, with CICA playing distinctive role in Asia, promoting principles of equality and inclusivity, supplementing global multilateral efforts.



CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay hosted the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Kazakhstan H.E. Dr. Omar Al Kanderi. The Ambassador presented a symbolic cheque indicating the voluntary financial contribution by Kuwait to the CICA Secretariat's budget.

The Secretary General expressed sincere gratitude to the Kuwaiti side for this significant practical contribution that will be used to promote multilingualism in CICA.



CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay met with H.E. Secretary General Ambassador Kubanychbek Omuraliev at Headquarters of Turkic States in Istanbul whose member states are also integral part of CICA.

Exchanged best practices and experiences regarding the conduct of Secretariats' modalities.



CICA Secretary General with the Ambassador Rasul Zhumaly and his able staff from Embassy of Kazakhstan in Lebanon in facilitating CICA team visit to Beirut.

The assistance of Kazakh Chairmanship Representatives in promoting CICA process is invaluable and greatly appreciated.

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