



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 Between 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.

New York, 20 September 2017