

SECRETARIAT
OF THE CONFERENCE
ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE
BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA



СЕКРЕТАРИАТ
СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО
ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ И
МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ

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*Enclosure:
as stated, on 2 p.*

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the Embassies of the CICA Member States in Ankara, Beijing, Moscow, Nur-Sultan and Tashkent and with the aim of implementation of item 5 of Area of New Challenges and Threats of the Cooperative Approach for the Implementation of CICA CBMs (Bangkok, 14 March 2007) about sharing of experience and strengthening cooperation to cope with the emerging infectious diseases and epidemics, and in compliance to item 1.8 of CICA Catalogue of CBMs (Almaty, 22 October 2004) has the honour to forward the CICA Chairmanship's Concept paper on introduction to the CICA Catalogue of CBMs of new confidence building measure "Epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals" to be discussed at the upcoming SWG and SOC meetings in December this year.

In this regard the Secretariat kindly requests the Member States to submit proposals on coordinator and co-coordinators of the new confidence building measure.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassies of the CICA Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nur-Sultan, 20 November 2020

EMBASSIES OF CICA MEMBER STATES
Ankara, Beijing, Moscow, Nur-Sultan, Tashkent



**Regarding the introduction
of new Confidence Building Measure
"Epidemiological Safety, Public Health and Pharmaceutics"
to CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures
(concept paper)**

At the beginning of 2020, humanity faced a new global challenge - COVID-19. Unprecedented security measures were imposed in the whole world, borders were closed among the states, and international events were cancelled. It is obvious that the consequences of the coronavirus will negatively impact on global socio-economic development for a long time.

More than half of the world population lives in the CICA Member States. In this regard, in order to widen the consensus on further methods of addressing the crisis, preventive response to epidemiological challenges and threats, as well as jointly combating the infection spread, developing and strengthening cooperation among the Member States in epidemiological security and public health is becoming especially relevant.

According to item 1.5 of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, nothing in Catalogue prevents the Member States from adopting other confidence-building measures among themselves or with other states.

In this regard, it is proposed to initiate cooperation in epidemiological security, public health and pharmacy in the framework of New challenges and threats dimension

Epidemiological safety

In the period of global crisis, there is a need for the introduction of new organizational and methodological forms of joint emergency response to mass outbreaks of infectious diseases, especially to the most hazardous and critical epidemiological situations.

The aim of cooperation of the CICA Member States in this area is discussion, exchange of experience and best practices in the epidemiological security to improve epidemiological monitoring of the relevant infectious diseases at the international level.

Interaction in this area will allow conducting an analysis of the epidemiological situation in the region, timely response to the spread of infectious diseases; develop joint measures to prevent other epidemiological situations in the post-pandemic period.

At the regional and global levels, the cooperation of the CICA Member States in this area would be useful to combat with the crisis, posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public health

Presently, COVID-19 pandemic, economic crisis, ageing population, increased level of the chronic disease, environmental degradation, climate change and etc. are the main challenges in public health.

Cooperation in this area will allow discussing and developing joint actions on the improvement of health and well-being of the CICA Member States' population, including an action plan on strengthening the potential of public health.

Providing technical and advisory support in health, introduction of innovative medical technologies, modernization of the health system, interaction in the preparation, training, skills upgradation and requalification of medical personnel in health, sanitary protection of borders, providing medical assistance during emergencies etc. can be cooperation directions of the CICA countries in this area.

Strengthening cooperation in this area will positively reflect on the development of the public health system in the Member States, and thus, CICA will additionally contribute to combating modern challenges at the regional and global levels.

Pharmaceutics

In the framework of the complex epidemiological situation of the world, it is important to adopt measures on combating pandemic and mitigate its effects, as well as other pressing challenges in the health.

In this context, the development of the cooperation in pharmaceutics seems relevant, including interaction in such areas as an exchange of information in pharmaceutics development, scientific developments, conducting joint research activities, transfer of pharmaceutical technologies, harmonization of requirements to security and quality of pharmaceutical and medical products, the security of pharmaceutical products, conducting training courses and skills upgradation of workers from the pharmaceutical industry and etc.

It is expected that cooperation in this area will open new opportunities for the development of the pharmaceutical industry of the Member States and will serve to the further strengthening health system in the CICA countries.

International cooperation is a key condition for the strengthening of epidemiological security and successful combat with the pandemic. Taking into account the modern challenges, mentioned cooperation area will provide dynamics to the efforts within CICA framework and allow realizing Forum's agenda.