(3 minutes)

Statement by Mr. Farid Damirli, Deputy Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

Fifth Ministerial Conference on Transport
High-level Round Table 1: Transport Connectivity for a Resilient Future

19 November 2026, Bangkok

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honor to address this high-level round table. I sincerely thank the ESCAP Secretariat for organizing this Conference and the Government and people of the Kingdom of Thailand for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements.

Over the past two years, under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, CICA Member States have expanded dialogue and practical cooperation on sustainable connectivity. This work reflects our shared understanding that resilient transport links strengthen economic opportunity, mutual confidence, and regional stability.

Building a resilient future requires diversified transport routes, reliable infrastructure, and cooperation that maintains essential connections during disruptions. The Baku Declaration of the 7th CICA Summit reaffirmed the importance of integrated transport and logistics systems, digitalization, and resilient supply chains, with particular attention to the needs of landlocked Member States.

Across our 29 Member States, resilience also means ensuring that major transcontinental corridors, including the Trans-Caspian and North-South routes can withstand economic, operational, and climate-related shocks. Climate-resilient infrastructure, greener freight, and harmonized transit rules are essential to keeping supply chains moving when disruptions occur.

Excellencies,

The first-ever Conference of Heads of Ports of CICA Member States, convened in Baku on 9-10 September this year, advanced exchanges on port operations,

multimodal connectivity, safety, and green logistics. It culminated with Recommendations of the Conference, providing a basis for closer cooperation between ports and inland transport networks.

CICA is also advancing a CICA Transport Connectivity Strategy to explore potential of major international routes, while complementing ESCAP's regional frameworks, including the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks.

These initiatives underline the importance of combining physical infrastructure with efficient border procedures, interoperable digital systems, and institutional coordination areas where UN standards and technical expertise play a vital role.

Earlier this month, CICA's participation in the SPECA Economic Forum in Bishkek highlighted shared priorities in regional transport. We presented CICA's practical connectivity initiatives and underscored how cooperation among our Member States can complement the work of SPECA, ESCAP, and UNECE.

As the discussions and decisions of this Ministerial Conference chart the path forward for Asia and the Pacific, CICA looks forward to deepening its partnership with ESCAP and all stakeholders to build transport connectivity that supports resilient economies, inclusive growth, and the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.
