

# VOICE OF ASIA:

## CICA Digest



SCO countries support CICA transformation

CICA Secretary General attends high-level political forum at UN headquarters

Signing ceremony of Road Map for Implementation of 2023-2024 Priorities of CICA Chairmanship

First meeting of CICA Fund's Project Review Committee

### CICA MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

28 August 2024



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# Foreword



## ***Distinguished colleagues and friends,***

As we reflect on the major achievements of 2024, it is my great honour to reach out to all members and partners of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and present this edition of the CICA Digest, marking a significant milestone in the development of our cooperation on environmental issues.

This year has been particularly important as we continue to enhance cooperation on critical global and regional issues, with a strong focus on pressing environmental challenges that affect us all.

In August 2024, the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues was held in Astana under the Kazakh Chairmanship, representing a landmark event for both Kazakhstan and all Member States. Initiated by President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA

Summit, this event reaffirmed our shared commitment to addressing key environmental issues at the regional level.

The success of the Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues serves as a testament to our countries' collective determination to confront these challenges. Through dialogue, cooperation and action, we are laying the groundwork for a more sustainable and prosperous future for our region.

Kazakhstan has consistently prioritized environmental issues, and this conference constitutes a major step towards institutionalizing environmental cooperation within CICA. I am pleased to note that the conference agenda included key issues such as pollution, climate change, clean water, biodiversity conservation and the transition to a green economy.

Particular emphasis was placed on climate change and the need for concerted action by the Member States in line with the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. These steps are crucial for advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and securing a better future for our nations.

Equally important was the discussion on water issues, during which CICA Member States exchanged experiences and best practices in water management – an integral part of sustainable development.

The topic of biodiversity conservation was also touched upon. Preserving this natural heritage requires a comprehensive approach, including the protection of natural areas, the restoration of degraded ecosystems and the fight against deforestation.

The High-level Statement adopted at the Conference reflects the aspiration of the CICA Member States to further strengthen cooperation on environmental issues. A commitment was expressed to deepen cooperation in areas such as pollution control, climate change resilience and the conservation of natural resources. In this context, the proposal to establish the CICA Environmental Council, voiced by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, represents a significant step towards strengthening cooperation in the environmental domain.

The establishment of a specialized platform will enable the Member States to address common environmental challenges through coordinated actions, as well as enhance collective capacity for ensuring sustainable development of practical initiatives and promoting best environmental practices in line with global frameworks, including the Paris Agreement.

I am confident that the joint efforts of the CICA countries will help us to develop effective solutions to overcome the environmental problems that our region is facing. There are big challenges ahead of us, and only through collaborative efforts can we achieve a sustainable and secure future for all Member States.

***Sincerely,  
Yerlan Nyssanbayev  
Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan***



# CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues Adopts High-level Statement

The CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues, held on 28 August 2024 in Astana, concluded successfully, marking a pivotal moment in pan-Asian environmental cooperation. Proposed by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev during the Sixth CICA Summit, the Conference brought together high-level officials from CICA Member States to address critical environmental challenges and concluded with the adoption of a high-level statement.



The event was inaugurated with welcoming remarks by the Chair Yerlan Nyssanbayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan. Minister Nyssanbayev noted that Kazakhstan attaches great importance to cooperation under CICA CBM mechanisms and called for continuous discussion of the institutionalization of the cooperation between Member States under the environmental theme by establishing the CICA Environmental Council, as proposed by the President Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit.

CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarbay highlighted that this conference marks a crucial milestone in addressing the urgent environmental issues confronting the continent. He noted that, despite the diverse ecosystems, climates, and cultures of the 28 CICA Member States, common environmental challenges require a unified and coordinated response.

Conference delegates held extensive discussions on several pressing issues, including pollution, climate change, green and sustainable economy, biodiversity and clean water. In particular, delegates discussed various types of pollution affecting communities, with particular emphasis on pollution control.

In the area of climate change, delegates highlighted the urgent need for action as its impact has become increasingly severe. The discussions centered on aligning with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement. This alignment is essential for achieving climate action goals, which are integral to all other UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the area of green and sustainable economy, delegates stressed the importance of transitioning to environment friendly economic practices. They discussed the need for countries to adopt measures that foster environment friendly culture and awareness towards it, which are crucial for creating sustainable systems.

In the area of biodiversity, delegates explored effective measures to overcome challenges faced by protected areas and considered innovative approaches to strengthen regional cooperation in biodiversity management.

In the area of clean water, delegates underscored the need for improved water management, climate resilience in water sector, and the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems. The discussions aimed at enhancing sustainable water management practices among CICA Member States through the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

In their statements, the officials underlined the visionary leadership of President Tokayev to initiate such a high-level gathering on environmental issues in CICA region and recognized CICA as a unique platform for cooperation in environmental dimension and to share knowledge, experience as well as best practices for sustainable future of the region.





The diversity of environmental challenges across CICA region underscores the need for dialogue and collaboration among the Member States. To that end, the institutionalization of the cooperation among CICA Member States under the environmental theme by establishing the CICA Environmental Council, as it was proposed by the President Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit, could promote interaction among CICA Member States on pressing environmental issues.

The Ministerial Conference adopted by consensus a high-level statement that reflects all CICA Member States' dedication to advancing collaboration, sharing best practices and addressing critical issues of environment.

The CICA Member States decided to strengthen water management through capacity building and technology exchange, tackle climate change in alignment with the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement and improve quality of life by focusing on climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and pollution control. These commitments reaffirm the shared responsibility of the CICA Member States and their dedication to a sustainable future for the region. The Conference concluded with a unified commitment to enhancing regional cooperation on environmental challenges.



July

## SCO Countries Support CICA Transformation

4 July 2024 – Astana, Kazakhstan - Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in the 24th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States, which took place on 4 July 2024 in Astana and was chaired by the Republic of Kazakhstan. The event brought together the heads of member states, observer states, dialogue partners and international organizations that enjoy observer status with the SCO.

The synergy of SCO and CICA capabilities can form a robust foundation for sustainable and inclusive progress, both within and beyond the SCO area. This was stated by Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the CICA chair country, while speaking at the Summit. He expressed appreciation to the Summit participants for their active support in transforming CICA into a full-fledged international organization, whose goals and objectives harmoniously complement the SCO mission.

Today, nine of the ten SCO member states are also members of CICA, which unites 28 countries, and Belarus, which joined the SCO at the Astana Summit, holds observer status in CICA. In the Astana Declaration adopted at the Summit, the SCO member states highlighted the cooperation between the SCO and CICA and emphasized the efforts of the CICA Member States in its institutional development.

CICA established a partnership with the SCO in 2014 when a memorandum was signed between the secretariats of the two regional organizations. In 2017, the Protocol on Cooperation between the CICA Secretariat and the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) was signed. Regional activities of CICA and the SCO have similar goals and objectives and complementary in nature.



## Ambassadors of Russia and Belarus Propose CICA Collaboration on New Eurasian Security Architecture



9 July 2024 —Astana, Kazakhstan - Ambassador of Russia Alexey Borodavkin and Ambassador of Belarus Pavel Utyupin paid a visit to CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay and delivered a joint letter from the Foreign Ministers of Russia and Belarus. The letter invites CICA Member States to start discussions on the principles and parameters of a new Eurasian security architecture that would reflect the current realities of a multipolar world order.

Moreover, Ambassador Utyupin conveyed an invitation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belarus to Ambassador Sarybay to take part in the High-level International Conference on Eurasian Security to be held in Minsk in the autumn of 2024.

CICA Secretary General Sarybay noted the usefulness and timeliness of the joint proposal by Russia and Belarus. He underlined that CICA Member States share an approach to common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible and equal security, and gratefully accepted the invitation to participate in the Minsk Conference. The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere of mutual understanding.

## CICA Deputy Secretary General and Kazakhstan's Vice Minister of Culture and Information Discuss Preparation for Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders

12 July 2024 — Astana, Kazakhstan — CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling met with Kazakhstan's Vice Minister of Culture and Information Aizada Kurmanova at CICA headquarters. The parties discussed preparations for the upcoming seventh meeting of the CICA Youth Council at the ministerial level, under the auspices of which the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders is planned. This event was initiated by the CICA chair, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym Jomart Tokayev, at the Sixth CICA Summit and will be held in Astana in early October 2024.

Both parties emphasized the importance of volunteering to strengthen solidarity and promote social progress. They unanimously highlighted CICA's role and wide array of tools in expanding the volunteer movement on a larger scale, particularly involving the youth of all the Member States of CICA.

There was a thorough exchange of views on the programme of the event, considering its postponement to October due to floods in Kazakhstan. Several new proposals to enrich the event's agenda were also discussed.

The Ministry expressed its willingness to closely coordinate with the Secretariat and the Member States to hold the Rally and the Youth Council meeting at a high level, thereby giving a strong impetus to CICA's new area of activity to support and encourage active social engagement in volunteering.



## CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay Visits United Nations Headquarters to Attend High-level Political Forum

New York, 15-18 July 2024 – CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay attended the ministerial segment of the High-level Political Forum at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. During his visit, Ambassador Sarybay engaged in several high-level meetings with UN officials.



In his meeting with UN Under-Secretary-General and High-level Representative for the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Miguel Moratinos, Ambassador Sarybay discussed the synergies between the CICA Youth Council and the initiatives of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan, the current and incoming CICA Chairs, in promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue.

Ambassador Sarybay also updated UN Under-Secretary-General Li Junhua on the latest CICA developments, including preparations for the CICA Ministerial Council meeting to be held alongside COP29 on 11 November 2024 in Baku. The two exchanged views on key international development issues, including youth empowerment and SMEs promotion.

During his meeting with UN Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the UNDP Haoliang Xu, collaborative efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, youth leadership, and human development in Asia were considered. A notable outcome of these bilateral discussions was the arrangement of UNDP capacity-building workshops in project management for the CICA Secretariat's staff.

Enhancing multilateralism in Asia was the main topic of discussion with UN Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific, Khalid Khiari. The talks addressed current regional and global challenges, exploring avenues for prevention, development projects, and the implementation of CICA confidence-building measures.

Ambassador Sarybay met with UN Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco following an online meeting with UN Resident Coordinators operating in CICA Member States in January 2024, and a meeting with David McLachlan-Karr, Regional Director for Asia-Pacific of the UN Development Coordination Office, in April 2024 in Bangkok. They discussed joint efforts between CICA and the UN at regional and subregional levels.

Ambassador Sarybay also met with Acting Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Joyce Msuya, to explore collaboration avenues between the CICA Fund and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in addressing humanitarian aid needs in Asia. The meeting highlighted the first voluntary contribution to the CICA Fund made by Iraq, and both parties agreed to establish efficient communication channels.

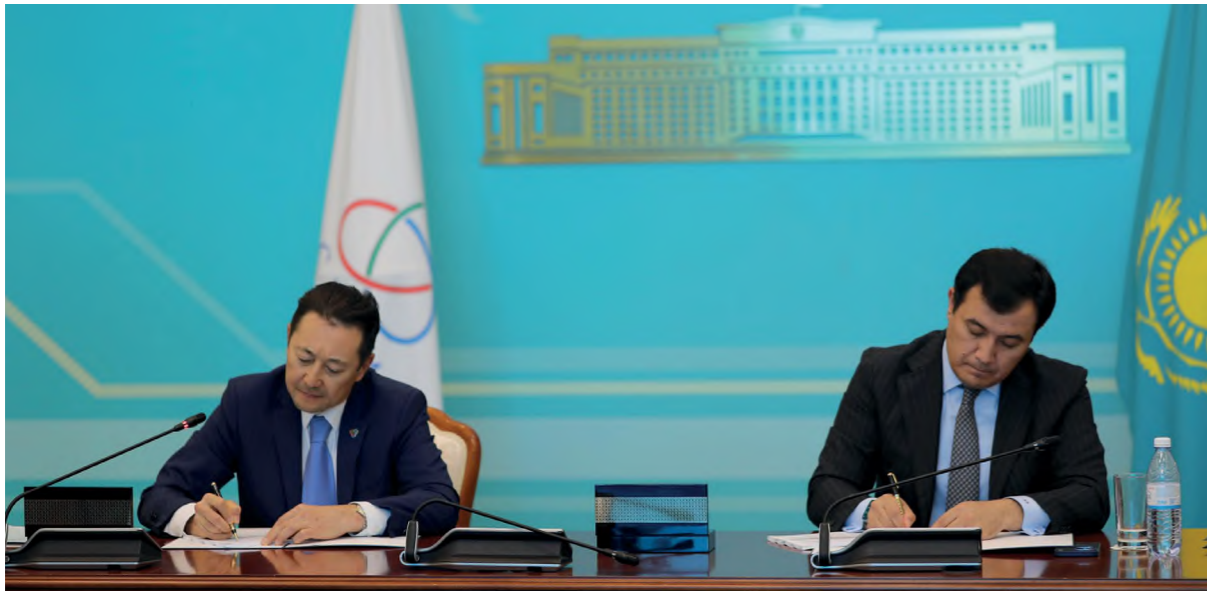
Discussions with Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre, Mauro Miedico, focused on commencing practical cooperation between CICA and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism through joint projects on countering terrorism. This includes initiatives on financing, AI analysis of passenger data, and preventing the proliferation of SALW.

Ambassador Sarybay paid a courtesy visit to the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan, where they discussed topical issues on the UN agenda and collaboration perspectives to raise CICA's profile within the UN system during Azerbaijan's Chairmanship for the 2024-2026 biennium.

Ambassador Sarybay delivered remarks on CICA's contribution to regional partnerships supporting the SDGs at a side event organised by the Eurasian Economic Commission during the HLPF. He highlighted the benefits of regional organisations' interaction for connectivity and development in Asia and beyond.

## Final Signing Ceremony of Road Map for Implementation of 2023-2024 Priorities of Kazakhstan's CICA Chairmanship

26 July 2024 – Astana, Kazakhstan - The signing ceremony of the Road Map for Implementation of 2023-2024 Priorities of CICA Chairmanship took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, marking the fourth and final signing under the Kazakh 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. Consistent updates ensure timely stock-taking and promotion of unresolved issues, underscoring the dynamic nature of this document.

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, highlights the extensive work by the Chairmanship and the Secretariat over the past year and a half, and outlines algorithms for future actions. CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay

spoke about ongoing institutional development initiatives and upcoming events, highlighting the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues, scheduled for 28 August 2024, the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders of the CICA Member States under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council in October 2024, the CICA Business Council meeting and Business Forum in November in Bishkek, and the 12th CICA Think Tank Forum meeting in Shanghai in the same quarter. The Partnership Network of Leading Universities of CICA Member States is expected to be launched at the 7th Ministerial Council meeting in Baku.

Ambassador Sarybay also spoke about the significant steps made towards CICA's transformation into a full-fledged international organization, such as formulation of a draft CICA Charter, CICA Rules of Procedure, and the Host Country Agreement.



# August





## First Meeting of CICA Fund’s Project Review Committee

On 8 August 2024, the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan held first meeting of the Project Review Committee (PRC) of CICA Fund at CICA Secretariat.

Establishment of the CICA Fund was one of the early initiatives of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev put forward in 2019 and materialized at the Sixth CICA Summit in 2022.

At the first PRC meeting, Member States were briefed about the CICA Fund’s goals and modalities of identification, funding and implementation of CICA project activities. The Fund is open for project proposals and voluntary contributions from CICA Member States and external donors.

The Kazakh Chairmanship also mentioned some draft project proposals that are being developed with the assistance of the CICA Secretariat and other international organizations.

## CICA Secretary General Discusses Regional Collaboration with UN Special Representative for Central Asia

12 August 2024 — Astana, Kazakhstan — CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay met with Mr. Kaha Imnadze, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Central Asia and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA).



During the meeting, Ambassador Sarybay provided an overview of CICA’s history, development, and the establishment of its advisory bodies. He also discussed the operationalization of the CICA Fund, emphasized the pivotal role that Central Asia plays in the CICA process and its ongoing progress.

Mr. Imnadze elaborated on his mandate as UN Special Representative and Head of UNRCCA and underlined the importance of Central Asia as a key hub for connectivity within Asia.

Both parties expressed mutual interest in exploring practical collaboration in youth engagement, implementing CICA’s confidence building measures, and fostering synergy between the CICA Think Tank Forum and the Central Asian Expert Forum (CAEF).





## CICA Secretary General Pays Working Visit to South Korea

CICA Secretary General, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, visited the Republic of Korea on 14-16 August 2024 to hold a series of fruitful consultations with Korean counterparts

The visit commenced with a meeting with former Ambassador of Korea to Kazakhstan Baek Joohyeon, a candidate for the CICA Council of Eminent Persons. The discussion focused on the importance of strengthening multilateral diplomacy and exploring the potential of CICA to enhance confidence and cooperation throughout Asia.

The in-depth dialogue with Mr. Kang Young-shin, Director-General for Northeast and Central Asian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of South Korea, focused on the importance of transforming CICA through statutory changes and budgetary and human resource reforms, including proposals for mandatory financial contributions. The Secretary General praised the Korean side for regular financial contributions and commended the coordinating role of the RoK in the priority areas of Energy Security and Information Technology. The upcoming meetings of the CICA Ministerial Council, Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues and Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders were also discussed.

The CICA Secretary General also met with Ambassador Choe Hyoung-chan, the new Chancellor of the Korea National Diplomatic Academy. Focusing on the transformation of CICA and its role in promoting Korea's global standing, CICA SG Kairat Sarybay encouraged the Academy to join the CICA Think Tank Forum and suggested conducting capacity building trainings for CICA Member States and the CICA Secretariat's staff.



During the meeting with President of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Ambassador Chang Won Sam, the Secretary General elaborated on ways for Korea to support CICA confidence building measures, as well as the operationalization of the CICA Fund. It was also agreed to seek synergy in international assistance projects, possibly involving the CICA Secretariat and KazAID – a partner organization of KOICA.



Secretary General Sarybay gave an interview to the Korea Herald, the largest Korean English-language daily newspaper, and met with some CICA Ambassadors in Seoul, briefing them on key achievements of CICA in 2020-2024 and the outlook for the future.

This is the second visit of CICA Secretary General to South Korea since he became the head of the CICA Secretariat in 2020. The Republic of Korea remains one of the largest contributors to Secretariat's budget.



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## CICA Special Working Group Launches Series of Meetings to Review CICA Rules of Procedure



On 20 August 2024, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held an online Special Working Group (SWG) meeting under the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan, facilitated by the CICA Secretariat.

The meeting started discussions on updating the CICA Rules of Procedure and marked the opening of a series of meetings devoted to the preparation for the 7th Ministerial Council Meeting later this year.

Discussions will continue at the next session of the SWG on 27 August.

## CICA Expert Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshev Discusses Strategic Importance of Multilateral Platforms in Sri Lanka



Expert of the CICA Secretariat Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshev visited Sri Lanka to attend the first Central Asia Forum hosted by Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the "Geopolitical Cartographer" – a research foundation based in Colombo. During the visit, Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshev was received by Hon M.U.M. Ali Sabry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, and had a meeting with Ambassador Ravinatha P. Aryasinha, Executive Director of the Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (LKI), which is a member of the CICA Think Tank Forum.

At the first Central Asia Forum, Ambassador Kuanyshev delivered remarks at the Round Table discussion on "Strategic Role of Central Asia in Eurasia and Beyond: The Emergence of New Transport and Logistics Corridors" and a panel discussion on "Central Asia in Focus". His speech was preceded by the welcome remarks by Mr. Rishan de Silva, Executive Director of the "Geopolitical Cartographer" and the opening address by Ms. Aruni Wijewardane, Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In his address on behalf of the CICA Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, the expert of the CICA Secretariat emphasized the increasingly important role of multilateral institutions amidst current disruptions of economic ties and other global and regional challenges. In this context, he highlighted the opportunities that CICA, as a unique multilateral platform for interaction, dialogue and cooperation, provides its Member States. Moreover, Ambassador Kuanyshev noted the growing significance of Central Asia for the global economic actors, given the region's geostrategic position.

The Forum was attended by Sri Lanka's senior diplomats and academic and business communities, as well as representatives of Embassies of Central Asian states in Sri Lanka.

During his conversation with Minister Ali Sabry, Ambassador Kuanyshev expressed gratitude for the unwavering support for the CICA process and updated the distinguished Minister on the implementation of the Kazakh Chairmanship priorities, preparation for the 7th Ministerial



Council meeting in Baku on 19 December 2024 and other key events scheduled for this year. The two diplomats followed up on some key agreements reached during the visit of the CICA Secretary General to Sri Lanka in February 2024.

At the meeting with Ambassador Kuanyshev, Ambassador Ravinatha P. Aryasinha, Executive Director of the LKI was briefed on CICA's current and future activities and events. The interlocutors explored ways to enhance the work of the Think Tank Forum, including its intersessional activities, and discussed existing opportunities for the Member States to project their agenda using the diverse institutional capacities of CICA.





## Islamabad Supports CICA, Aiming to Leverage its Potential for Enhanced Connectivity Across Asia

Secretary General Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid a working visit to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan from 20 to 22 August 2024, during which he held a series of meetings with the leadership of the country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and various research institutes and Think Tanks in Pakistan.

While receiving the CICA Secretary General at his residence, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif reiterated Pakistan's continued support for CICA, emphasizing that its success contributes to the prosperity of the people of Asia. The Pakistani Prime Minister expressed support for the initiatives of the Kazakh Chairmanship in CICA, including those aimed at building sustainable connectivity across the Asian continent. The Secretary General of CICA commended Pakistan's activities as one of its founding countries and the initiatives focused on strengthening CICA's role and profile.

During the meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan Ishaq Dar, the parties discussed pertinent issues related to CICA's current activities, institutional development and

its transformation into a full-fledged international organization. It was stated that Pakistan intends to raise the global visibility of CICA through the United Nations platform as part of its role as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2025-2026 term. Ishaq Dar highlighted the strengthening of connectivity between Asian countries as one of the most important areas of CICA's activities in the near future.

During a meeting with Additional Secretary Syed Haider Shah, there was an in-depth discussion on Pakistan's cooperation within CICA. Several areas were proposed where Pakistan could leverage its potential in CICA, including through advisory bodies such as the Business and Youth Councils and the Think Tank Forum.

At the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Secretary General delivered a lecture at the Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan. In



discussions with the Academy's leadership, they explored prospects for cooperation, particularly in enhancing the skills of diplomats from Member States and the CICA Secretariat.

In a meeting with Dr. Zia-ul-Haq, Director General of the Islamic Research Institute, the counterparts exchanged views on how Pakistan could contribute to CICA's efforts to prevent youth radicalization, combat terrorism, and strengthen interreligious dialogue.



During the visit, the CICA Secretary General also met with Senator Sitara Ayaz, Secretary General of the International Parliamentarians Congress (IPC), an international organization headquartered in Islamabad. They discussed the potential activities of the two organizations in various fields.



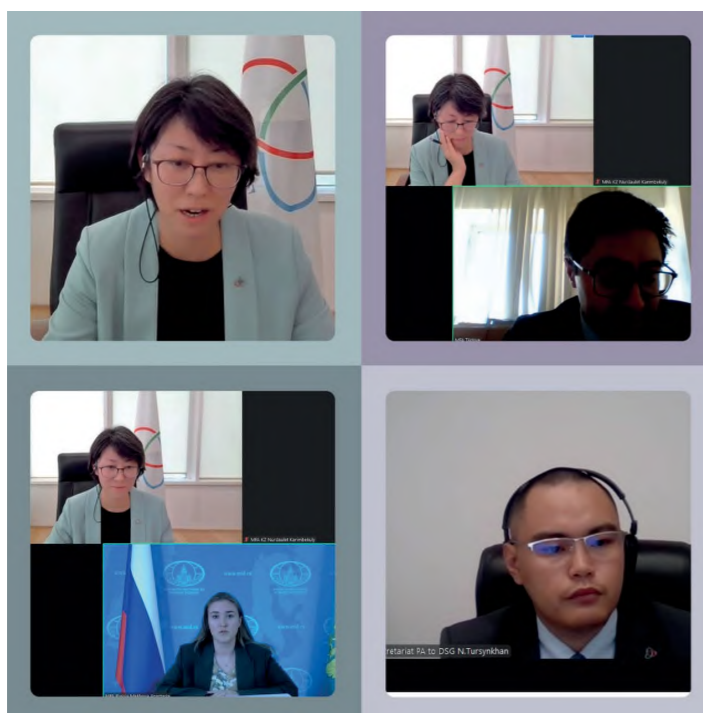
All the meetings were conducted in a warm, friendly and trusting atmosphere.



## CICA Secretariat Discusses Preparation for Forthcoming CBM Events with Organizing Member States

CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms. Zhang Ling held an online working meeting with focal points of CICA Member States planning to organize events under the CICA Plan of Implementation of Confidence Building Measures for 2024. Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Turkiye and Russia shared the progress of preparation of upcoming seminars and training courses.

At the online meeting, Ms. Zhang Ling provided information on the status of the implementation of the 2024 Plan so far and expressed her sincere appreciation for the efforts made by the Member States in the practical implementation of the annual CICA Plan. The representatives of the CICA Member States updated the new dates and format of the events of the Plan scheduled until the end of the year.



## Memorandum on Building New CICA Headquarters Signed in Astana



The memorandum defines the main areas of cooperation between Sensata Group, Akimat of Astana, JSC «Social-enterprise corporation «Astana» and the CICA Secretariat in the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the new building, including general coordination and monitoring of the project implementation.

Commissioning of the building is expected in June 2025. International advanced practices with an ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) approach will be applied in the construction of the headquarters.

Construction of the CICA headquarters is an important step in the process of transforming CICA into a full-fledged international organization, launched by the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022.

Earlier, on 26 June 2024, a foundation stone laying ceremony was held at the site of the new headquarters, where a time capsule containing a message for the future CICA staff was placed.

Building a separate premises for the CICA Secretariat is the initiative of President of Kazakhstan K. Tokayev. This is a significant contribution to further strengthening this pan-Asian organization which has its Secretariat in Kazakhstan since 2006.

28 August 2024 – Astana, Kazakhstan – Ceremony of signing a memorandum on cooperation in the construction of separate headquarters for the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) in Astana was held at the CICA Secretariat.



## Institutionalization of CICA Finance Summit Discussed at 2024 Astana Finance Days



On 6 September 2024 an expert meeting was held as a panel session of the 2024 AFD forum in Astana to discuss the initiative on institutionalizing the Finance Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the strengthening of economic and financial interaction within CICA. It brought together representatives of financial institutions and diplomatic missions from CICA Member States, as well as the leadership of the AIFC and the CICA Secretariat.

The main topic of discussion was the transformation of the CICA Finance Summit into a regular platform for dialogue. This initiative was put forward by President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Sixth CICA Summit in October 2022 to strengthen cooperation among financial sectors of CICA Member States.

In her opening remarks at the event, CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling stressed that institutionalizing the Finance Summit is a pivotal move. She stated that transforming these series of successful meetings into a permanent dialogue platform will enhance financial cooperation among CICA Member States with the aim of promoting financial stability, sustainable development and regional prosperity.

Mr. Yerzhan Birtan, Director of the Office of the Secretary General, presented initial approaches to institutionalizing the CICA Finance Summit which were developed by the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China – initiator of the Finance Summit, with the assistance of the CICA Secretariat. Themes for addressing this new CICA advisory body could include reforming international financial systems, strengthening national financial frameworks and reducing their vulnerability to external factors, promoting development financing, strengthening the role of the financial sector in the development of open economies, and many others.

# September

Mr. Wang Tao, Minister-Counsellor at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Kazakhstan, reaffirmed China's dedication to enhancing regional stability and development through CICA and expressed a willingness to collaborate with international partners to further elevate CICA cooperation.

Mr. Zheng Zhong, First Secretary of the MFA of China, expressed support for the institutionalization of the Finance Summit and noted that the existing draft regulation provides a good basis for further discussions. Mr. Wang Songhua, Senior Executive Officer of China Construction Bank's Astana Branch and President of the General Association of Chinese Entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan, emphasized the importance of financial cooperation in addressing regional challenges and provided insights into the Kazakhstan-China General Chamber of Commerce's efforts to foster business relations and social responsibility.

Mr. Dmitry Kiku, Deputy Director of the Department of Control over External Restrictions of the Ministry of Finance of Russia, welcomed the initial approaches of the CICA Chairmanship and Secretariat to es-

establish this important new CICA structure and expressed Russia's readiness to actively engage in the CICA Member States' work to that end.

Mehmet Onur Partal, Division Director of the Presidency of Türkiye, highlighted that institutionalizing the CICA Finance Summit would meet the need for collaboration and trust-building among Member States. He emphasized that this new CICA institution would empower common policies and strengthen financial cooperation across the region.

Ms. Lang Weijie, Managing Director & CEO of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, announced that ICBC Almaty will use its Yuan clearing bank status in Kazakhstan to expand project financing across CICA Member States and foster a prosperous future for the region.

The session also considered the role of the AIFC as an important institution for facilitating regional economic integration and investment opportunities, as well as the regional fund domicile and private equity investments hub.

The CICA Finance Summit, initiated by China during its 2014-2018 chairmanship in CICA, has become a useful platform for regional financial cooperation. China successfully hosted three meetings of the Finance Summit in 2018, 2019 and 2021, each addressing key topics such as financial innovation, practical cooperation and responses to global challenges like COVID-19.

Further steps in the process of Finance Summit transformation will include a series of expert meetings organized by the CICA Chairmanship of Kazakhstan to discuss and draft the necessary regulations.



## Environmental Cooperation in Asia: Outcomes of CICA Secretary General's Visit to Eastern Economic Forum

From 3 to 6 September 2024, Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay paid a visit to Vladivostok, Russian Federation, to participate in the Eastern Economic Forum.

Addressing the plenary session "Environmental Diplomacy: Falcons – New Horizons of Cooperation" of the 2nd Falcon Day International Forum on 3 September, Secretary General K. Sarybay presented the efforts undertaken by the CICA Member States in the environmental dimension of confidence building measures. In particular, the issues of sustaining and maintaining biodiversity were reflected in the High-level Statement adopted by the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues on 28 August in Astana. Notably, all eight states that signed the Framework Declaration of Intent on the Conservation of the Gyrfalcon – Bahrain, Qatar, the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, the United Arab Emirates, the Russian Federation – are CICA members. These countries are committed to making a practical contribution to restoring the populations of falcons and bustards in their natural habitats.

Secretary General K. Sarybay participated in the Forum's plenary meeting on 5 September, alongside President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of Malaysia Anwar Ibrahim and Vice President of the People's Republic of China Han Zheng, where the outlines for developing multifaceted economic cooperation in Asia were discussed.

In addition, K. Sarybay joined the discussion titled "Far Eastern Federal University



(FEFU): 125 Years of Training Specialists to Develop Russian-Asian Relations". Highlighting the relevance of training skilled professionals in Oriental Studies due to Asia's increasing role in global economic, socio-cultural and political development. He stressed the need to strengthen the cooperation among universities. In this respect, the panel session participants were introduced to the initiative for establishing the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States, with its regulations set to be approved at the upcoming Ministerial Council meeting in Baku this December. Moreover, K. Sarybay proposed that FEFU consider joining this network.



## Role of Multilateral Diplomacy in Building New International Security Architecture: Outcomes of CICA Secretary General's Participation in Xiangshan Forum



On 12-14 September 2024, Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in the 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum held under the theme “Promoting Peace for a Shared Future”.

The Xiangshan Forum is an annual event organized by the Chinese Ministry of Defense to focus on building and promoting dialogue on security issues. This year’s forum was attended by more than 90 delegates from countries around the world and international organizations.

Speaking at the plenary session “International Mechanisms and Global Security Governance”, Secretary General stressed the increasing role of Asia in shaping security and global development in the 21st century. Noting the need for multilateral efforts to address pressing issues, Secretary General pointed out the potential of CICA to consolidate the countries of the region. He emphasized cooperation in the military-political and economic

dimensions, where Member States work together on issues of arms control, economic connectivity and infrastructure development. Attention was also paid to climate change as one of the key challenges for the region. Secretary General highlighted the recent initiatives of CICA, including the Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues held in Astana on 28 August. In a high-level statement adopted at the Conference, the heads of environmental departments from CICA Member States reaffirmed their commitment to cooperation, sharing of experience and joint resolution of urgent environmental issues.

Furthermore, Secretary General highlighted a number of important initiatives aimed at enhancing cooperation within the organization. For instance, the CICA Fund, established in 2022, has begun its practical operations and is becoming a valuable tool for providing development assistance and humanitarian aid in natural and human-made disasters and crises.

The CICA Finance Summit’s institutionalization will create conditions for sustainable economic growth and regional financial cooperation. The successful operation of the CICA Business Council, founded in 2014 as one of the organization’s earliest permanent institutions, also attests to the relevance of the economic dimension of cooperation. The Business



Council includes representatives from business associations and government bodies of CICA Member States. CICA also aims to promote the development of interconnected and efficient infrastructure, including the integration of various types of transport, energy, trade and communication networks, as well as enhanced logistics efficiency. In this respect, at the Sixth CICA Summit in 2022, President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed to establish the CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity. The CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities, set to be inaugurated later this year, will strengthen the interaction among the Member States in education, innovation, research and technological development. Currently, the CICA Member States are actively cooperating through the Youth Council, the first permanent CICA institution, established in 2014. The Think Tank Forum, another permanent structure of CICA that brings together leading research institutes from the Member States, aims to offer recommendations to governments on the most pressing and critical issues.

In conclusion, Secretary General reiterated CICA’s commitment to regional cooperation, highlighting that the future of international security depends on multilateral diplomacy and collective efforts to address global challenges.

While in Beijing, Secretary General also visited the Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and met with SCO Secretary-General Zhang Ming. Both sides discussed the prospects for cooperation between the two Secretariats, considering the SCO reforms and CICA’s transformation into a full-fledged regional international organization. Secretary General expressed his appreciation to Zhang Ming for his personal involvement in strengthening the interaction between CICA and the SCO. During the discussion, both sides underlined how the activities of the two multilateral structures complement each other in advancing peace, stability and cooperation across the vast region.

## CICA Business Council Board Meeting Discusses Preparations for Upcoming Events

The Board of the CICA Business Council convened for a meeting organized by the Atameken National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan together with the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) on 17 September 2024. The meeting was centred on the preparations for the seventh plenary session of the CICA Business Council and the ninth CICA Business Forum. Following the meeting, the Board of the CICA Business Council approved the scheduling of these events for November 2024 in Astana.

In his remarks, CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay thanked the participants for their significant contributions to the Business Council. Highlighting the transition of the CICA Chairmanship, including the stewardship of the Business Council, to Azerbaijan this December, he shared the outcomes of high-level meetings with the Azerbaijani Chairmanship held in Baku. Secretary General emphasized the importance of preparing for the seventh plenary session and the ninth Business Forum and presented the Secretariat's proposal regarding the list of participants for the forthcoming events. Secretary General expressed hope that Atameken would continue its active role in the work of the Business Council even after the Chairmanship is transferred to Azerbaijan.

Chairman of the Board of the Atameken NCE Raimbek Batalov supported the CICA Secretariat's initiative to engage international institutions, including financial entities, in the Business Council's activities. He also introduced Mr. Orkhan Mammadov, Chairman of the Management Board of the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (KOBIA), as the incoming Chairman of the CICA Business Council. R. Batalov assured that the Atameken NCE remains open for consultations on the activities of the Business Council.

In turn, Mr. Mammadov informed about KOBIA's commitment to promoting the work of the CICA Business Council during the

Chairmanship of Azerbaijan in 2024-2026 for the benefit of the development of small and medium enterprises of the CICA Member States. He proposed to hold the eighth plenary session of the Business Council and the tenth Business Forum in Baku in 2025.

Pavel Kondrashov, Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Business Council from the Russian Federation, proposed to include in the agenda of the Business Council the issue of promoting industrial cooperation and facilitating the participation of small and medium enterprises in global value chains, including the use of digital services and platforms.

The representative of the Republic of Türkiye, Murat Soykan, supported Mr. Kondrashov's proposal on a new agenda item and informed the participants of his readiness to share Türkiye's experience in this area with the members of the Business Council.

The event was an important step in the preparations for the seventh plenary session of the CICA Business Council and the ninth CICA Business Forum.



## CICA Member States Discuss “North-South” and “East-West” Transport Corridors at Expert Meeting

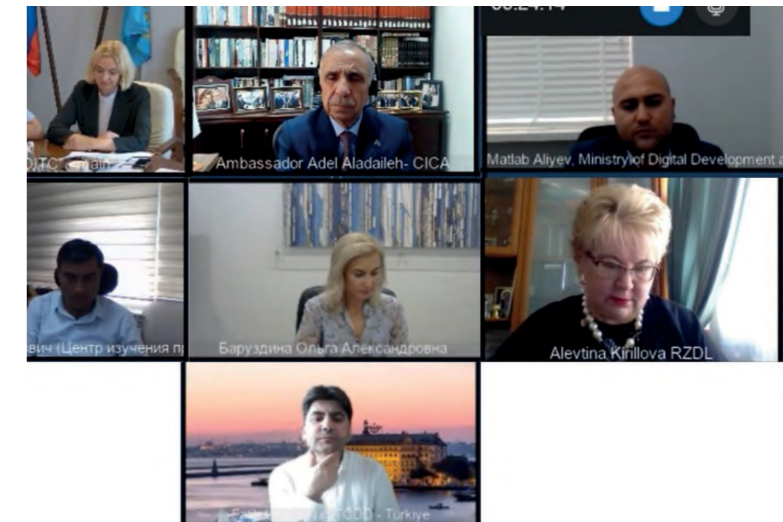
On 17 September 2024, experts from Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), specializing in transport and logistics, convened online for a CICA expert meeting organized by the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Directorate of International Transport Corridors” (Russian Federation). The meeting facilitated the exchange of best practices and insights on critical topics, including food security in transport and logistics, the digitalization of rail transport, and the development of transit and transport potential within CICA countries.

The event opened with remarks from the Russian Federation, who stressed the pivotal role of the CICA platform in advancing digital transformation within the transport and logistics sector.

CICA Secretariat expert Ambassador Adel Adaileh emphasized the importance of political stability in fostering development and prosperity and highlighted CICA's role as a credible multilateral platform for promoting dialogue on various issues, including economic cooperation, environmental concerns, cultural exchanges, and security.

During the discussions, participants highlighted the importance of enhancing logistics routes to strengthen international economic ties. The potential of the ‘East-West’ corridor was emphasized as a reliable connection between Europe and Asia, while the focus on strategic initiatives aimed at promoting transit cargo growth and advancing the digitalization of logistics was also underscored.

The meeting also covered innovative solutions for landlocked nations, personnel training, and fostering scientific cooperation. It concluded with a call for regular information exchange among CICA Member States to facilitate mutual access and use of transport infrastructure.



## CICA Secretariat Hosts Working Lunch with Ambassadors of CICA Member States in Astana

18 September 2024 – Astana, Kazakhstan -The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) hosted a working lunch for ambassadors of CICA Member States accredited in Astana, with the participation of H.E. Mr. Alibek Bakayev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.



The event highlighted Kazakhstan's key achievements during its Chairmanship from 2020 to 2024 and CICA's main activities in the first quarter of 2024, setting the stage for Azerbaijan to assume the CICA Chairmanship in December 2024, as decided by the CICA Ministerial Council in March 2024.

Deputy Minister Bakayev provided an overview of major CICA achievements and updated participants on the progress of implementing Kazakh Chairmanship priorities outlined by President Tokayev at the 5th CICA Summit in Dushanbe and the 6th CICA Summit in Astana. Mr. Bakayev highlighted the 2022 Astana Statement on Transformation as the most significant achievement of the past four years, followed by the adoption of the Road Map for CICA Transformation by the Ministerial Council in 2023. He emphasized the fully updated CICA Catalogue of CBMs and the establishment of three new permanent institutions: the Council of Eminent Persons (CEP), the Think Tank Forum (TTF), and the CICA Fund.

He also noted the expansion of the CICA family with one new Member State, two Observer States, and one partner organization, and stressed that the construction of a building for CICA headquarters, initiated by President Tokayev, reflects Kazakhstan's continued commitment as the founding and host state.

In his address, Secretary General Kairat Sarybay reported on significant progress made in implementation of the transformation roadmap in 2024. A key milestone was the elaboration and submission to the Member States of the draft CICA Charter in August 2024, as well as the draft updated CICA Rules of Procedure. As stated by the Secretary General, the CICA Charter would be the quintessence of the transformation process and its adoption - the culmination of this process. Ambassador Sarybay provided detailed updates on ongoing activities of the Secretariat and CICA advisory bodies, as well as on progress in strengthening cooperation with other international organizations of the UN system and increasing CICA's visibility.



H.E. Dr. Montaser Abu Zeid, Ambassador of Palestine, commended Kazakhstan's leadership during its CICA Chairmanship, congratulated Azerbaijan on its upcoming assumption of the chairmanship role, and reaffirmed Palestine's commitment to supporting CICA's transformation into a full-fledged international organization.

Mr. Siroj Rajabov, Counsellor at the Embassy of Tajikistan, emphasized CICA's role in promoting multilateral cooperation, addressing challenges such as terrorism, drug trafficking, and cybercrime, while calling for greater collaboration on water management and climate change.

H.E. Mr. Nauman Bashir Bhatti, Ambassador of Pakistan, and H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-ick, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, also praised Kazakhstan's Chairmanship and expressed support for CICA's transformation, with Ambassador Cho highlighting the need for mandatory contributions to the CICA budget to further enhance CICA's capabilities. Both ambassadors thanked Secretary General Sarybay for his productive visits to their countries.

Participants of the event expressed support for continuing such informal meetings to strengthen political dialogue and cooperation within CICA.



# Seminar on Smart Agriculture with in CICA: Steps Towards Sustainable Agriculture in Asia

The People’s Republic of China, with the assistance of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), held a seminar titled “Smart Agriculture and Agricultural Industry Development” from 5 to 19 September. The two-week training series was organized by the Yangling Agricultural Demonstration Zone (Shaanxi Province, PRC), in partnership with the Northwest A&F University and various local companies.

As the coordinator of the priority area of “Agriculture” within CICA’s economic dimension, China has actively fostered dialogue and cooperation with the Member States, regularly conducting practical and engaging skills-building activities.

This year, the event held offline brought together around 20 participants from four Member States: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

The seminar’s opening ceremony took place on 6 September, during which CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling delivered a video message to the participants. On behalf of the CICA Secretary General, deep appreciation was expressed to the People’s Republic of China for its sustained support for the organization’s activities since its inception. Ms. Zhang Ling stressed that in recent years the training seminars conducted by the Chinese side in the field of agriculture have proven to be relevant as demonstrated by the positive feedback received from

CICA Member States following similar past events.

The Deputy Secretary General noted that smart agriculture is the future of the farming industry, underscoring its importance in the face of global challenges and threats such as climate change, food security and the water crisis. It was expressed with hope that the educational lectures and field trips organized by Yangling would become a good tradition, contributing to the implementation of the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

The seminar programme included lectures, as well as visits to local educational institutions, industrial facilities and agricultural farms, providing participants with insights into the use of advanced irrigation systems, water-saving technologies in arid regions, modern cultivation facilities, etc. Additionally, participants were treated to a cultural programme that included visits to the cultural and historical landmarks of Shaanxi Province.

At the conclusion of the seminar, participants were awarded certificates from the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People’s Republic of China.



# CICA Secretary General Addresses Summit of Future and Engages in High-level Meetings on Margins of 79th

New York, September 25, 2024 – The Secretary General of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Ambassador Kairat Sarybay participated in a series of high-level events during the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, from 22 to 25 September, 2024.

In a historic first for CICA, Ambassador Sarybay addressed the UN General Assembly from the same rostrum where CICA was first proposed in 1992. His statement during the Summit of the Future on September 22 marked a significant milestone, reflecting CICA's progress as a pan-Asian intergovernmental forum. Ambassador Sarybay highlighted CICA's institutional achievements under the Kazakhstan's Chairmanship and the Secretariat's contributions to the UN's New Agenda for Peace and the outcome documents of the Summit.



During the Interactive Dialogue on the Digital Future, Ambassador Sarybay emphasized CICA's advancements in digital development and the proactive approach of its Member States in sharing best practices in digital innovation. He also stressed the importance of preventing the misuse of ICTs for illegal purposes, in alignment with global efforts to promote the responsible use of technology.



On the margins of these events, Ambassador Sarybay held a number of bilateral meetings with high-level representatives from CICA Member States and the UN Secretariat.



Ambassador Sarybay met with Bakhtiyor Saidov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan. Their discussion focused on enhancing economic cooperation and strengthening connectivity. They agreed that regular exchanges and robust business ties would contribute to the peace and prosperity of the region.

In a meeting with Dr. Badr Abdelatt, Foreign Minister of Egypt, Ambassador Sarybay expressed deep appreciation for Egypt's ongoing support of CICA's transformation. They discussed ways to deepen cooperation in implementing confidence building measures and introduced ideas for joint projects to promote multilingualism.



In a meeting also with H.E. Mr. Nasser Bourita, Foreign Minister of Morocco, Ambassador Sarybay discussed Morocco's interest in obtaining observer status within CICA. Both parties agreed to continue dialogue to bridge Asia and Africa through multilateralism.



Ambassador Sarybay engaged in discussions with Orkhan Mammadov, Chairman of Azerbaijan's Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBIA). The conversation centered around the priorities of Azerbaijan's upcoming CICA Chairmanship in 2025-2026, with a particular focus on activities related to the CICA Business Council.

The CICA Secretary General also met with H.E. Vladimir Voronkov, UN Under-Secretary-General for Counterterrorism, and H.E. Natalia Gherman, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. They discussed CICA's progress in ongoing implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and agreed on further steps to strengthen cooperation.



In a meeting with Miroslav Jenca, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Central Asia, Europe, and the Americas, Ambassador Sarybay explored opportunities to enhance synergies between CICA and the UN, with the goal of raising CICA's visibility within the UN system.



Ambassador Sarybay also met with Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, to discuss CICA's efforts to promote women's empowerment. They exchanged views on potential future cross-sectoral initiatives aimed at advancing gender equality.



## Strengthening CICA Confidence Building Measures in Military-Political Dimension Discussed in Astana

On 25-26 September 2024 in Astana, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held a seminar on the development of the CICA military-political dimension. The seminar was attended by representatives of the military and political circles of 15 CICA Member States, as well as representatives of the largest think tanks and research institutes of the Republic of Kazakhstan.



The address of the CICA Secretary General Kairat Sarybay to the participants of the seminar was delivered by Expert in the Military-Political Dimension of the CICA Secretariat Ambassador Doulat Kuanyshiev. The address emphasized that the issues of creating confidence building measures in the military-political field were at the heart of CICA, which over the 32 years of its development has turned into a mature multilateral structure of multifaceted cooperation that goes far beyond security issues. At the same time, the military-political dimension remains among the key areas of cooperation in CICA.

The address also emphasized the importance of maintaining dialogue between representatives of military departments and enhancing confidence building measures among them in the modern world. The existing problems related to security, conflict prevention and arms control require increased interaction on a multilateral basis. At the same time, the main goal of CICA is to create an architecture of security and cooperation in Asia based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law, transparency and mutual

trust, taking into account decisions and actions taken exclusively on the basis of consensus.

During the seminar, a thorough, engaging and open discussion on pressing international security issues took place with the participation of prominent Kazakh scholars and experts in the political field.

On the second day of the seminar, as part of confidence building measures, the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized a visit for the seminar participants to the National Defense University of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the newly established Military-Political Academy.

The military-political dimension is one of the five dimensions of interaction of the CICA Member States included in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. Seminars on the development of the CICA military-political dimension are held on an annual basis in the Republic of Kazakhstan, which is the coordinator of this dimension of cooperation.

## Youth in focus of international cooperation: CICA Deputy Secretary General participates in Eurasia Global International Youth Forum

On 24-26 September 2024, CICA Deputy Secretary General Ms. Zhang Ling took part in the Eurasia Global International Youth Forum in Orenburg, Russia. The forum brought together more than 500 young participants, including representatives of youth associations and international organizations from 115 countries around the world.



At the opening of the event, a message from President of the Russian Federation V. Putin was read to the participants, emphasizing the importance of involving young people in strengthening good neighbourliness and fostering equal cooperation among representatives of different peoples and cultures.

The CICA Deputy Secretary General addressed the panel session «Asia in the Focus of International Friendship» as an expert joining speakers from India, Laos and Russia. In her speech, the Deputy Secretary General introduced the audience to the activities of CICA, highlighting the robust cooperation among Member States in the human dimension, including the areas of volunteerism and youth policy. She also informed the participants about the upcoming CICA Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders, organized under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council, which will take place on 3-4 October 2024 in Astana at the initiative of President

of the Republic of Kazakhstan K. Tokayev. Ms. Zhang Ling commended Russia's role in CICA and expressed gratitude to the organizers of Eurasia Global for their efforts in making the forum a prestigious platform for international youth dialogue, which continues to bring together an increasing number of participants from around the world.

Following the session, a lively discussion ensued with representatives of youth organizations and individual participants from Asian countries, focusing on potential cooperation within the framework of CICA





The CICA Secretary General participated in a round-table discussion jointly organized by the Silk Way TV Channel and CGTN. He spoke in detail about the common ground and synergies between CICA and the SCO and highlighted the importance of upholding peace and prosperity in Asia through the principles of genuine multilateralism.



CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling had a productive meeting with representatives from the Economic Research Institute of Kazakhstan. The parties discussed ways of collaboration with a focus on an e-book national incentives for promoting SMEs in CICA Member States



The CICA General Secretary joined Harvard College Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) 2024 to connect with younger generation. Presented current role of CICA in regional cooperation and strengthening multilateralism amid Asia's rising posture and exchanged views on environment issues.



President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's State of Nation Address on Kazakhstan's commitment to balanced foreign policy and multilateralism profoundly resonates with core CICA values. Kazakhstan's leadership in CICA is vital in promoting confidence and dialogue and advancing cooperation in Asia.



The CICA Secretary General met with H.E. Ambassador Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). CICA SG provided an update on current CICA activities and exchanged best practices regarding administrative matters, including budget, human resources, and legal status issues, to deepen the cooperation with ECO.



The CICA Secretary General had another regular meeting with Deputy Minister Ambassador Alibek Bakayev to plan joint work in preparation for the 7th CICA Ministerial Council meeting in Baku on 11 November 2024, including the preparation of its outcome documents.



CICA Deputy Secretary General Zhang Ling took part in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation.



On 4-5 September 2024, Ambassador Adel Adaileh addresses New Challenges and Threats in CICA dimension at 10th SCO RATS International Conference in Tashkent.



**CICA ART COLLECTION INITIATIVE**  
**"CICA CULTURAL KALEIDOSCOPE: EMBRACING DIVERSITY THROUGH ART"**

**Objectives**

- Enhancing cultural dialogue
- Promoting respect for cultural diversity
- Strengthening CICA's unity

**Key Dates:**  
 Submission deadline: 15 October 2024  
 Art work delivery: by 1 June 2025

**Submit:**  
 High-definition photo and form to [cica.competition@cs-cica.org](mailto:cica.competition@cs-cica.org)  
 Contact: Aralym Assylbekova | [aralym@cs-cica.org](mailto:aralym@cs-cica.org) | (7702) 764 0598

CICA Secretariat is thrilled to announce the launch of the "CICA Cultural Kaleidoscope: Embracing Diversity Through Art" initiative! Selected art pieces will be displayed at the new CICA HQ, scheduled preliminarily for July 2025. All submitted art works will also be featured in our info channels, used in calendars, and CICA Digest. Don't miss out!



SWG sessions were held on 20 and 27 August, during which consultations were focused on preparation for the upcoming 7th Ministerial Council in December 2024 in Baku. During the sessions updated Rules of Procedure were discussed as part of CICA's transition into a full-fledged regional international organization, an initiative launched at the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana in 2022. These discussions are part of the broader, eight-area Road Map for CICA's transformation. SWG session held on 11 September, completed the first round of discussions on updating the draft CICA Rules of Procedure. Another session of SWG was held on 23-24 September in hybrid format to solidify the gains made till now.

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