

Statement by H.E. Dr. Kazem Gharibabadi

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Republic of Iran**

**At the Seventh Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence
Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

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In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

**H.E. Mr. Ceyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of
Azerbaijan;**

H.E. Mr. Kairat Sarybay, Secretary-General of CICA;

Distinguished Heads of Delegation;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is a pleasure to participate in this important meeting in Baku, among representatives of Asian countries. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this Summit and for their efforts to strengthen regional cooperation.

Today's Summit is taking place at a time when Asia, despite its immense human, economic, and civilizational potential, is confronted with a range of complex security threats. Intensifying geopolitical rivalries, resort to the use of force, the weakening of multilateralism, and the persistence of unresolved regional crises have made it more imperative than ever to fundamentally reassess existing security approaches and strengthen cooperation among Asian countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that lasting security in Asia can be achieved not through threats and pressure, but through mutual respect, confidence-building, and equal cooperation among independent states.

Excellencies;

One of the most serious challenges facing the international system today is the normalization of the use of force and attempts to impose political will on independent countries through military aggression, sanctions, and threats.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been subjected to military attacks—acts that constitute a flagrant violation of the country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity and are contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, international humanitarian law, and the Charter of the United Nations.

Since 28 February, our nation has, for the second time in the past 16 months, faced unlawful military aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime—an aggression that began while intensive diplomatic negotiations were underway. On the very first day of this aggression, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution was martyred, and many of our compatriots lost their lives, including 168 innocent schoolchildren at the Shajareh Tayyebah School in Minab. Our peaceful nuclear facilities, which were under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as our country's vital civilian infrastructure, were also targeted. In responding to this aggression, Iran has exercised its inherent right of self-defence pursuant to Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. We are not warmongers, but any act of aggression will be met with our resolute response.

We emphasize that no political or security consideration can justify disregarding peremptory norms or the fundamental principles of international law.

Experience has demonstrated that the use of force does not resolve disputes. On the contrary, by deepening mistrust, intensifying arms races, damaging vital infrastructure, and increasing civilian suffering, it exacerbates regional crises.

The principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran is clear: the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states must be respected; threats or the use of force must be condemned in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations; and

any violation of international law must be subject to independent, evidence-based, and impartial investigation.

In this regard, we expect CICA member states to adopt a principled, consistent, and international-law-based approach to any act of military aggression, irrespective of the identity of the aggressor or the victim.

Distinguished Heads of Delegation;

Developments in West Asia demonstrate that expansionist policies, the use of force, and disregard for international obligations have consequences that extend far beyond the borders of any single country.

The military actions of the Israeli regime, the continued occupation of Palestinian territory, violations of the rights of the Palestinian people, and escalating tensions in Lebanon, Syria, and other parts of the region are among the major sources of instability in West Asia. The widening scope of military confrontation and threats of attacks against countries in the region increase the risk of further actors being drawn into conflict and of the crisis spreading to other parts of Asia.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that it is impossible to speak of lasting security in Asia while remaining indifferent to occupation, aggression, military threats, and violations of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The continuation of the current situation, particularly in the absence of effective accountability and enforcement of international rules, undermines the credibility of the international legal system and sends a dangerous message: that military power can replace the rule of law.

We call for an end to the acts of aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime, an end to impunity, the protection of civilians, and the pursuit of legal accountability through the competent international mechanisms.

In this context, Asian countries must act responsibly to prevent the crisis from escalating and must not allow our region to become an arena for military rivalries and endless intervention.

Ladies and Gentlemen;

What is unfolding in our region today reflects an environment in which international law is not applied equally to all. When a permanent member of the Security Council commits the grave crime of unlawful aggression against Iran; when the genocide of the people of Gaza continues amid impunity for the leaders of the Israeli regime, while the Security Council fails to discharge its responsibilities, confidence in the international order is eroded. When aggression goes unanswered, the international order comes to rely on force rather than law. The experiences of Gaza and Iran have demonstrated that international institutions are failing to fulfil their primary responsibilities and that, through their silence, they are instead contributing further to a climate of lawlessness.

If this situation persists and intensifies, the crisis will not remain confined to Iran and West Asia. The world as a whole will suffer from the resulting insecurity, including in the areas of energy, trade, transportation, and the corridors established at enormous cost.

We believe that no country can pursue its own security at the expense of the insecurity of others. Security in Asia is indivisible and can be sustainable only when it is shared by all. Experience has shown that stability cannot be achieved through the military presence of foreign powers or through the imposition of pressure. It can emerge only on the basis of dialogue, trust, and mutual respect among the countries of the region. As we have repeatedly emphasized, no external party can determine the destiny of our region on our behalf. Safeguarding the Persian Gulf is the responsibility of the countries of the region and the littoral states, not of forces arriving from across the oceans. The military presence of foreign powers has never brought lasting tranquillity to the region.

Excellencies;

Allow me to conclude by emphasizing the following:

Asia's future must not be determined on battlefields or through arms races. It must be built on respect for the sovereignty of states, justice, shared development, and cooperation among nations. The Islamic Republic of Iran

stands ready to contribute actively to the realization of such a future through responsible diplomacy, regional cooperation, and the defence of the principles of international law.

In this regard, we believe that the Israeli regime is the principal source of insecurity and instability in Asia, particularly in West Asia. Countries are expected not to remain silent in the face of the regime's brutal crimes against various countries, committed with the support of its big brother, the United States. The time has come for this regime to be expelled from the CICA framework.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always sought—and continues to seek—the best possible relations with its neighbors. Furthermore, no country should permit its territory to be used by aggressors to launch armed attacks against my country. Naturally, Iran reserves the right to take necessary measures to defend itself and to counter threats, as well as their sources.

Regarding the Strait of Hormuz, I would like to stress that this waterway remained open and trouble-free for decades. The root cause of the current difficulties lies in the military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the naval blockade imposed upon it. The security of navigation is linked to the security of the littoral states; one cannot advocate for freedom of navigation while simultaneously disregarding the security of the coastal states. Likewise, one cannot discuss the security of the Strait of Hormuz while accepting the growing presence of foreign military forces as a normal state of affairs. The only practical solution for establishing order and peace in the region—and for restoring safe and secure passage through the Strait—requires a permanent end to aggression and war, the complete lifting of the naval blockade and sanctions against Iran, and respect for Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Thank you for your attention.

assalamualaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh