



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

**СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

№ TTF/1462

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 34 p.*

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the CICA Member States and has the honour to forward herewith the Summary of the 11th Meeting of the CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF) held in Xining, Qinghai, People's Republic of China on Augus 27-30, 2023, prepared by the Chair of the TTF – Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, as well as the finalized program with the list of participants.

The outcome documents of the Meeting are available in the close part of the CICA Secretariat's website, section "CICA Think Tank Forum".

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

Astana, 5 December 2023



**MEMBER STATES
OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES
IN ASIA**



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Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь препроводить отчет 11-го заседания Форума аналитических центров (ФАЦ) СВМДА, которое состоялось в г. Синине, провинция Цинхай, Китайская Народная Республика, с 27 по 30 августа 2023 года, подготовленный Председателем ФАЦ – Шанхайским институтом международных исследований, а также доработанную программу со списком участников.

*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 34 л.*

Итоговые документы заседания доступны в закрытой части веб-сайта Секретариата СВМДА, раздел «Форум аналитических центров СВМДА».

Секретариат СВМДА пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить государствам-членам СВМДА уверения в своем весьма высоком уважении.

город Астана, 5 декабря 2023 г.



**ГОСУДАРСТВА-ЧЛЕНЫ
СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ
В АЗИИ**

Қосымша:
аталған,
34 п.

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (Азия Кеңесінің) Хатшылығы Азия Кеңесіне мүше мемлекеттерге өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіреді және Азия Кеңесі Талдау орталықтары форумының (ТОФ) Төрағасы – Шанхай халықаралық зерттеулер институты әзірлеген 2023 жылғы 27-30 тамыз аралығында Қытай Халық Республикасы, Цинхай провинциясының Синин қаласында өткен Азия Кеңесінің 11-ші ТОФ отырысының есебін және қатысушылар тізімі бар іс-шараның соңғы бағдарламасын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

Отырыстың қорытынды құжаттарымен Азия Кеңесі Хатшылығы веб-сайтының жабық бөлігінде, «Азия Кеңесінің Талдау орталықтары форумы» бөлімінде танысуға болады.

Азия Кеңесінің Хатшылығы осы мүмкіндікті пайдалана отырып, Азия Кеңесіне мүше мемлекеттерге өзінің зор ілтипатын тағы да растайды.

Астана қаласы, 2023 жылғы 5 желтоқсан

**АЗИЯДАҒЫ ӨЗАРА ІС-ҚИМЫЛ ЖӘНЕ
СЕНІМ ШАРАЛАРЫ КЕҢЕСІНЕ
МҮШЕ МЕМЛЕКЕТТЕР**

Summary of the Eleventh Meeting of the CICA Think Tank Forum

From August 27th to 30th, 2023, under the guidance of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and jointly hosted by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies and the Foreign Affairs Office of Qinghai Province, the 11th CICA Think Tank Forum was successfully held in Xining, Qinghai. The forum invited nearly 50 scholars and diplomats from countries including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, and more, besides China. The discussions revolved around critical issues related to Asian security and development in a hybrid format. This Meeting was greatly supported by the CICA Secretariat. The following are highlights of the participants' remarks.

Opening Ceremony

Ms. Wang Haihong, Vice Governor of Qinghai Provincial Government

Qinghai, known as the source of three major rivers and often referred to as the “Water Tower of China,” plays a critical role as a national ecological security barrier. It is also one of the regions globally with the highest concentration of high-altitude biodiversity, species diversity, genetic diversity, and heritage diversity. In addressing global climate change and achieving the goals of peak carbon emissions and carbon neutrality, Qinghai offers a vast space for these endeavors. Qinghai, in collaboration with Asian countries, particularly the CICA Member States, responds to and implements President Xi Jinping’s initiatives such as the Global Development Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and Global Civilization Initiative. Together, we aim to tackle global ecological security issues, promote regional security, stability, and prosperity, and advance the long-term stability and development of CICA. Qinghai hopes to enhance exchanges and mutual learning in ecological civilization. We are willing to share our experiences, concepts, methods, and achievements in practicing President Xi Jinping’s ecological civilization ideology with countries worldwide, especially CICA Member States. Furthermore, Qinghai aims to promote practical cooperation in clean energy. Qinghai is ready to share its ideas, technologies, and market insights in clean energy development with countries worldwide, especially CICA Member States, to foster a new era of international clean energy cooperation. Lastly, Qinghai seeks to unite forces for green development. It is hoped that this forum will serve as an opportunity to jointly establish a platform for promoting green, low-carbon, and circular development exchanges and cooperation with countries worldwide, especially CICA Member States, in the pursuit of common development.

H.E. Amb. Kairat Sarybay, Secretary General, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

In the current circumstances of geopolitical fracture and new dividing lines, multilateralism and inclusiveness have become the only possible approach to ensuring peace and stability. As an intergovernmental forum with the widest geographical coverage in the Asian region, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is transforming into a full-fledged international regional organization. This year, the Member

States have developed a Road Map for Transformation with eight specific directions of the forthcoming reforms. In the economic dimension, CICA has established the CICA Business Council and considers setting up a CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity to strengthen the transit and transport potential of CICA Member States. In the environmental dimension, CICA successfully promotes cooperation on environment protection, achieving carbon neutrality and food security and is considering establishing a CICA Environmental Council. In the human dimension, CICA Member States actively interact in such areas as respect for human rights, promotion of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions, empowerment of women and girls, science and education, as well as cooperate in the framework of the CICA Youth Council. In the new threats and challenges dimension, CICA Member States attach high priority to cooperation including the fight against terrorism, illegal migration, drug trafficking, addressing the Covid-19 pandemic and in other areas. In the military-political dimension, CICA provides its Member States with mechanisms for exchanging information on arms control issues, holding consultations on unexpected and dangerous military incidents, monitoring military exercises and other forms of cooperation between the armed forces. An important contribution to political and expert dialogue within CICA is expected from the new CICA institutions established in 2021 and 2022 - the Council of Eminent Persons, the Think Tank Forum and the CICA Fund. The Think Tank Forum, initiated by China in 2014, was transformed into a permanent institution of CICA in 2021. This Forum plays a special role in the family of CICA bodies. Its mandate and composition allow it to consider an almost unlimited range of issues. Ideas and recommendations developed by the TTF have great potential for transformation into concrete actions and solutions.

Mr. Cheng Wei, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China

In the context of a new era, the CICA should focus on the cooperation needs of its Member States, build consensus, and better serve the security and development interests of countries in the region, contributing to the construction of a community with a shared future for CICA. Firstly, it is important to promote advanced CICA concepts, encourage countries to practice a new security perspective that is common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable. Secondly, the maintenance of regional peace and stability is crucial. CICA should play a more proactive role in maintaining regional security, adhere to dialogue to resolve differences, negotiate to settle disputes, effectively address traditional and non-traditional security threats, and promote long-term stability in the region. Thirdly, it is essential to contribute to the common development of all Member States. Economic growth and development are urgent tasks facing regional countries. Actively promoting cooperation in relevant areas, especially strengthening the high-quality construction and alignment of the "Belt and Road" initiative, promoting coordinated and linked regional economic development, providing new impetus and opportunities for economic recovery and improvement of people's livelihoods in various countries. Fourthly, it is crucial to steadfastly practice multilateralism. CICA should adhere to opposition against unilateral and bullying behaviors, uphold the authority and role of the United Nations, international law, and the principles of international relations, safeguard the legitimate development

rights and interests of Member States, and promote the international order towards a more rational direction.

H.E. Mr. Shakhrat Nuryshev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to China

Kazakhstan's initiative to convene the CICA has proven its relevance, and China was among the first states which supported the idea of establishing the Conference and has actively participated in its activities for over 30 years. Cooperation with China has always been a priority of Kazakhstan's foreign policy. During the past 30 years, our relationship has reached an unprecedentedly high level – a permanent comprehensive strategic partnership – laying a solid foundation for strengthening good neighborliness and further development of mutually beneficial cooperation. President Xi Jinping has chosen Kazakhstan as a first destination during the pandemic for his foreign trip in last year. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has paid his state visit to China which coincided with taking part in the first "Central Asia – China" Summit in Xi'an in May of this year. The current geopolitical and socio-economic situation in the world requires states and international organizations to respond quickly to the ongoing changes. An appropriate assessment of global processes is becoming a key factor in various aspects of human activity. In this context, special importance is attached to the promotion of such an important cooperation mechanism as the CICA Think Tank Forum. The Forum plays a significant role in discussing and analyzing regional security issues, as well as putting forward concrete proposals to strengthen confidence-building measures in our continent. It is hoped that the forum will continue to serve as a platform for sharing experiences, knowledge and consensus building for the development and prosperity of CICA and the region as a whole.

H.E. Mr. Sobirzoda Shukhrat Gulmakhmad, Deputy Secretary General, Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Asia, with its rich cultural diversity, economies and geopolitical features, is a region of immense opportunity, home to some of the world's fastest growing economies. It is also a region marked by historical conflicts and security challenges. In this context, the Meeting plays a key role in shaping a vision of Asia based on mutual learning and mutually beneficial cooperation. CICA was established during a period marked by significant geopolitical changes. The founders of CICA recognized the need for a forum that could facilitate dialogue and cooperation among Asian states, promoting confidence-building measures to mitigate security concerns.

CICA, over its 30-year evolution, has achieved significant results as an efficient and effective multidisciplinary mechanism of interaction. The SCO and CICA established official relations in 2014 by signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two secretariats. Cooperation between the organizations is dynamically developing and expanding. Despite their similar goals, principles and geographical scope, the SCO and CICA are complementary organizations. The modern world and the events taking place in it clearly show that success can be achieved only through joint efforts. Ensuring regional security and stability through diplomatic dialogue, confidence-building measures and

coordinated efforts to solve common problems are impossible without consolidation of forces not only of the SCO and CICA, but also of other regional organizations.

Session 1: Mutual Learning among Civilizations and the Path to Coexistence among CICA Member States

Yang Jiemian, President Emeritus and Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council, SIIS, China

Asia has accumulated many commonalities throughout its long development process. Firstly, its profound historical influence is noteworthy. The origins of four of the world's ancient civilizations lie in Asia, and they have continuously evolved through practical tests in history. Asian civilizations also provide essential learning and reference points for the younger nations in the region. Secondly, mutual learning and exchange make Asian civilization vibrant and dynamic. Asian civilization has always encouraged exchanges in areas such as thought, philosophy, culture, and the arts. Thirdly, Asian civilization has contributed to the formation of common global values, encompassing humanitarianism, justice, equality, diligence, benevolence, and modern values like independence and unity, with the "Shanghai Spirit" being a representative example.

The Asian region should not become an arena for geopolitical competition and ideological confrontation. Economic and financial cooperation in Asia can be upgraded with the development of technology. On one hand, CICA is increasingly capable of representing the entire Asia in exploring the present and future of the continent in political, economic, and cultural domains. On the other hand, challenges remain formidable. CICA lacks regional awareness, especially in dealing with political confrontations, security threats, economic difficulties, and social divisions. There is a need to enhance strategic thinking, practicality, and robust action capabilities. In the future, CICA needs to commit to achieving a balance between goals and capabilities, equality, and efficiency.

Alexander Lukin, Director, Center for East Asian and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Studies at Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Russia

The term "civilization" emerged in the latter half of the 19th century to distinguish it from the primitive state of society. Over the years, researchers have classified civilizations differently, such as Liang Shuming categorizing civilizations into European, Chinese, and Indian civilizations. It is essential to recognize that each civilization possesses uniqueness, and conflicts and opposition may arise between them, but all civilizations deserve respect. Western countries have long considered Western civilization as the foundation for establishing global rules and values, attempting to place it above others. However, the world needs a consensus formed by numerous participating countries to collectively formulate international rules, rather than having rules dictated by a single powerful nation. The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), as a regional international organization with a diverse membership and representation of various civilization centers, is crucial. Engaging in a dialogue of civilizations is essential to deepen mutual understanding and prevent conflicts.

Seyed Mohammad Marandi, Vice President for International Affairs, the University of Tehran, Iran

Indeed, while Asia is on the rise, there are numerous disruptive elements attempting to sow conflict, disputes, and hatred in the region. Western mainstream think tanks have historically wielded considerable influence on global public opinion, shaping perceptions of many countries through their filters. For instance, there is a notably negative "filter" applied to the portrayal of Iran, and the "China image" in Western discourse often does not align with reality.

To promote the rise of Asia, researchers must enhance interactive forms, including teaching, seminar exchanges, and short-term visits. Strengthening interaction among CICA member states ensures that mutual perceptions remain unaffected by Western influences. As Asia emerges as a more positive force, it has the potential to bring about a better quality of life for people in all countries.

Sheradil Baktygulov, Research Fellow, The National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic

Interaction between civilizations can drive human progress and economic prosperity, making China's proposal of the "Global Civilization Initiative" highly significant. There are four key points to consider in fostering dialogue between civilizations: first, respecting cultural diversity; second, advocating for common human values; third, valuing cultural heritage and preservation; and fourth, strengthening people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

Engaging in dialogue between civilizations is beneficial for eliminating conflicts and tensions between the Western and Islamic worlds. Different civilizations should seek common ground in their dialogues while also valuing the protection of their own political identities. Countries like China, India, Iran, Russia, Turkey, and many others boast diverse civilizations. Viewing the world solely through a Western lens can breed hatred and even lead to violence. Only through dialogue between civilizations can conflicts be resolved, and coexistence achieved.

Whether between religions, cultures, or civilizations, be it East or West, dialogue based on common goals is essential to creating a better world. Civilization dialogue is a new paradigm that extends beyond philosophy or politics. It can promote cooperation between various organizations and groups worldwide, fostering mutual benefit, cooperation, and the establishment of a shared human destiny.

Tarik M. Yousef, Director, the Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar

Compared to Huntington's theory of the Clash of Civilizations, the concept of civilization dialogue has a longer history. Discussions on civilization dialogue emerged in ancient Greece and the early Middle East, exploring ways to facilitate understanding and communication between cultures for peaceful problem-solving solutions. Currently, we stand at a crossroads for civilization dialogue. In the 1990s, there was a golden period for civilization dialogue, but after the "9/11 attacks," the world's misinterpretation of Islamic civilization and Muslim communities became severe. There was a widespread belief that

they posed dangers and threats to the world, instilling fear of Islamic civilization, and civilization dialogue failed to change this situation.

Asia is at the center of intercultural exchange and cooperative dialogue, with Asian countries actively attempting to promote more exchanges, seeking new ideas for economic development, and establishing a new consensus to protect national sovereignty and regional peace. The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) serves as a crucial platform to achieve these goals, fostering people-to-people and cultural exchanges, academic and educational cooperation among member states, and realizing genuine respect, understanding, and civilization dialogue. This will promote the prosperity and development of Asia, contributing to global prosperity and development.

Serhad Varlı, Head of Department, Center for Strategic Research (SAM) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye

Turkey strongly supports the development of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and has previously served as the CICA Chair Country from 2010 to 2014, garnering widespread acclaim from member states. To date, CICA has played a crucial role in addressing security and development issues in Asia. Turkey is committed to actively participating in and supporting the continued development of CICA, as well as its transition processes towards international organizations. The key to CICA's success and its milestones in development lie in inclusivity and consensus-building, which have been pivotal in achieving its objectives.

Session 2: Security, Stability, and Win-Win Cooperation among CICA Member States

Du Qinghua, Director, Economic Research Institute, Qinghai Academy of Social Sciences, China

Qinghai, situated on the world's rooftop, the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, is endowed with abundant clean energy resources, including solar, hydropower, and wind energy. This makes it a potential catalyst for clean energy cooperation among the member states of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA):

1. Solar Energy Riches: Qinghai boasts rich solar energy resources, being one of the most sunlit regions in China. With the same area and capacity, solar power generation in Qinghai is 15-20% more efficient than provinces like Gansu and Ningxia.
2. Abundant Land Resources: The province has vast land resources, with over 100,000 square kilometers of desertified areas, primarily located in the Qaidam Basin. This offers ideal conditions for establishing large-scale nuclear power stations and solar power output bases.
3. Hydropower Abundance: Qinghai is abundant in hydropower resources, being the source of three major rivers. The province has over a hundred rivers with a power generation capacity exceeding 10 megawatts, and the hydropower potential exceeds 25 million kilowatts.
4. Wind Energy Richness: Qinghai possesses extensive wind energy resources, with a storage capacity exceeding 400 million kilowatts. Particularly, regions like Tanggula, the

northwest part of the Qaidam Basin, and Qinghai Lake area are relatively rich in wind energy resources, making them ideal areas for establishing large and medium-sized wind power plants.

According to the latest data, as of 2022, Qinghai's clean energy installed capacity has reached 40.76 million kilowatts, accounting for 91.2% of the province's total power installed capacity. It is the province with the highest proportion of clean energy and the largest centralized photovoltaic power generation capacity in the country.

Naghi Ahmadov, Leading Advisor, Center of Analysis of International Relations, Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is strategically located in the "Middle Corridor," connecting China, Central Asia, and Europe. Currently, the "Middle Corridor" plays a crucial role in linking Central Asia with European countries through Azerbaijan. The Asia-Europe railway, promoted by China, also passes through the "Middle Corridor." The corridor has evolved into a diverse transportation network, serving as a transportation hub. It connects Asian countries with European nations such as Romania and Hungary, enhancing transportation options through interconnection with other corridors.

The "Middle Corridor" enhances the overall resilience of transportation in Asia, contributing to the establishment of a comprehensive transportation network. This integration of the entire Silk Road Economic Belt optimizes the investment environment for countries along the route. Against the backdrop of an unstable international security environment, maintaining stability in the "Middle Corridor" is crucial for the economic development of the region.

Zhou Xiaonong, Director, National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention & Chinese Center for Tropical Diseases Research, Shanghai, China

Tropical diseases spread rapidly and impose a significant burden, yet their global impact is often overlooked. The World Health Organization (WHO) calls for global cooperation around tropical diseases and has developed a corresponding roadmap. Currently, numerous international organizations collectively propose the concept of "One Health," advocating for interdisciplinary, intersectoral collaboration in disease control to find solutions for zoonotic diseases. This concept has gained widespread acceptance, and the WHO has established the One Health Committee to drive the implementation of related projects.

In the Asia-Pacific region, there are already platform networks addressing various health issues, including helminthiasis, echinococcosis, cysticercosis, drugs, and diagnostics. These networks play a crucial role in promoting transnational collaboration. ASEAN countries should strengthen cooperation and work towards establishing a "One Health" network in the Asian region to address various complex health issues collaboratively.

Akramjon Nematov, Deputy Director, Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) serves as the most extensive cooperation platform in Asia and plays a crucial role in the pan-

Asian security framework. Presently, the world is confronted with increasing challenges and geopolitical confrontations, marked by the rise of trade protectionism and unilateral sanctions. These factors contribute to elevated costs in import and export for the Central Asian region, resulting in higher energy and food prices, which, in turn, create obstacles to economic, investment, and technological development.

Climate change poses an even more formidable threat to Central Asia, exacerbating issues such as water scarcity, soil degradation, loss of biodiversity, and a reduction in agricultural yields. These challenges, in turn, escalate the risks of terrorism, transnational crime, drug trafficking, and humanitarian crises. CICA Member States should strive to maintain socio-economic stability in the region, enhance cooperation in sustainable supply chains, and mutually open market access to fully unleash the region's dividends in terms of human resources and raw materials.

Cooperation in both industrial and agricultural sectors, the establishment of logistics systems, and ensuring the supply of various products, especially agricultural goods, are essential. Efforts to reduce protectionism and collaborative approaches to address climate change issues should be prioritized. Last year, President Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan proposed an initiative on shared prosperity during the Summit of the Heads of State Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The fundamental objective is to strengthen mutual trust and understanding at the global and regional levels, fostering inclusive dialogues among all nations and civilizations to find cooperative solutions, restore trust, and alleviate global tensions and uncertainties.

Liu Yue, Deputy Director, Security Research Institute, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, China

The development of digital technology is a double-edged sword for CICA Member States, as it can bring about economic development momentum while also potentially introducing more digital security risks and a digital divide. Therefore, it is crucial to promote cooperation among countries through the CICA platform. This not only enhances each country's capacity for independent development but also fosters inclusive development through cooperation at national, regional, and global levels.

The primary focus of cooperation in digital development is in the area of digital infrastructure. This includes land and sea cables, 4G, 5G, and future 6G mobile communications, as well as the Internet of Things (IoT) and industrial Internet. CICA should strengthen collaboration in the digital domain, engage in discussions on digital security issues, and facilitate the digital development of each country to achieve the sharing of digital technology. This involves reinforcing cooperation in the field of digital security, promoting the establishment of a regional digital coordination mechanism, enhancing discussions on digital governance rules, and advocating for multilateral participation and cooperation.

It is essential to coordinate the relationship between the development and security of the digital domain. In the future, CICA countries can further advance discussions on digital development, digital governance, and digital security, focusing on collaborative efforts and ensuring the secure use of technologies like ChatGPT.

Saidhomid Sharifzoda, Head of the Department, Center for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan

In recent years, the international situation has become increasingly complex, requiring countries to closely monitor changes in political, economic, and security conditions to ensure the security of their economies, societies, and political landscapes and implement rational policies. Since joining CICA, Tajikistan has consistently supported the development of the organization and its efforts to expand multilateral cooperation, ensuring peace, security, stability in Asia, and combating illegal organizations and terrorism. Tajikistan is committed to making corresponding contributions to these goals.

Progress in the political, economic, and cultural life of any country is inseparable from peace and stability. Tajikistan pays special attention to ensuring the political stability and national security cooperation of CICA Member States. It is willing to collaborate with other nations to jointly combat terrorism, prevent the cross-border movement of terrorism, and establish a unified perspective, position, and standards on counter-terrorism issues, collectively addressing the threats at hand.

Zhang Yujing, President, China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products; Chairman, CICA Business Council, China

As a significant outcome of the 2014 CICA Shanghai Summit, the CICA decided to establish the Business Council, empowering it to facilitate economic and trade cooperation among Member States and contribute to providing a platform for collaboration among Member State enterprises. Each Member State's Industrialists Committee is composed of representatives from government departments responsible for economic and trade cooperation, business associations, and business leaders. The committee operates under the coordination of the Secretariat and the Executive Board.

Since its establishment, the Business Council has played a substantial role in promoting economic and trade policy communication among Member States, advancing trade facilitation, and supporting enterprises in expanding their markets. This includes organizing regular CICA Business Forums, supporting business training, and facilitating project inspections and connections. These efforts aim to drive the development of economic and trade cooperation within the CICA region.

The China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products serves as the Chair for the CICA Business Council in China. It is the largest industry organization in China's foreign trade and economic field and is responsible for organizing the committee's establishment and business forums. In 2015, the fourth CICA Business Forum and the establishment meeting of the Business Council were held, establishing close ties with Member State business associations. Each year, nearly 1500 Chinese enterprises participate in and host economic and trade exchange exhibitions, fostering cooperation with Member State enterprises in areas such as trade investment and large-scale project construction.

In the future, the CICA Business Council in China will strengthen its collaboration with the CICA Think Tank Forum, leveraging the expertise of think tank experts to guide and consult on economic and trade cooperation. This collaboration aims to promote economic

and trade cooperation among CICA Member States, contributing to CICA's role as an authoritative and efficient regional international organization.

Session 3: CICA as an International Organization: Mechanism Building and Concept Innovation

H.E. Mr. Kairat Sarybay, Secretary General, CICA

CICA has become a mature platform for political dialogue and interaction on confidence building, and it has acquired all the necessary attributes of an international organization and de-facto functions as such. Very detailed deliberations among Member States on transformation took place in the second half of 2022 during their collective work on the main outcome document of the 6th Summit which eventually resulted in the adoption of the historic *Astana Statement on CICA Transformation*. As the first steps in the transformation process, the Summit established the CICA Council of Heads of State or Government, CICA Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the post of CICA Secretary General, and set a task to develop a road map of necessary measures for transformation.

Furthermore, the task of the Summit to develop a road map for transformation has been implemented. The draft road map, with eight specific clusters of the forthcoming reforms, has been finalized by the CICA SOC at its last meeting in Astana on 22 August. The document is expected to be endorsed at the informal meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council in New York on 21 September 2023 on the margins of the High-level Week of the UN General Assembly. It contains an open-ended and non-exhaustive list of topics to discuss, namely eight specific thematic areas which Member States will discuss in detail at a later stage. These are: elaboration of a CICA charter; improving CBM implementation and exploring future focus areas of cooperation; international status of the Secretariat staff; updating the Rules of Procedure and the Guidelines for External Relations; role and functions of the Secretary General and the Secretariat; budget reform and human resources management reform, including internationalization of the Secretariat.

The CICA Think Tank Forum has a special role in the family of CICA bodies and a lot of untapped potential. Its mandate allows it to discuss an unlimited range of issues, and its recommendations can be turned into actions and solutions by CICA governing bodies. There is untapped potential in many areas, and the forum's suggestions can be translated into actions and solutions for CICA institutions. We look forward to the CICA Think Tank Forum continuing to contribute valuable insights to the discussions on CICA's transformation.

Sun Zhuangzhi, Director, Institute of Russia, Eastern Europe & Central Asian Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China

The protracted Ukraine crisis has accelerated the evolution of the global security landscape, rendering the international security situation increasingly fragile and sensitive. Various conflicts have triggered and exacerbated non-traditional security crises. Within the CICA region, threats such as border conflicts, domestic unrest, violence and terrorism, and escalating refugee issues continue to rise. Three major global security issues are becoming

prominent: firstly, the severe situation of energy and food security. Western sanctions against Russia, impacting international financial rules, have led to serious energy and food shortages in developing countries, triggering a debt crisis. Secondly, nuclear security issues are widely concerned. The Ukraine crisis has led to facilities such as nuclear power plants being affected by the conflict, placing many countries and regions in a precarious situation. Thirdly, a new round of arms race has been activated. Military expenditures of many countries have reached historic highs, and military organizations, such as NATO, attempt to interfere in Asian affairs. In this context, as a crucial platform for regional security coordination and dialogue, CICA needs to learn from the lessons of the OSCE, base its actions on practical considerations, oppose interference, especially in legal aspects, and explore pragmatic cooperation with relevant departments. Innovative ideas and platform construction are crucial foundations and prerequisites for the institutionalization of CICA. Only by achieving a balanced focus on both economic and security aspects can CICA better serve the fundamental interests of countries in the CICA region, ensuring its stability and becoming a multilateral mechanism with international influence.

Yerkin Tukumov, Director, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

The CICA Think Tank Forum facilitates effective activities at the expert level among Member States, fostering mutual trust. The opinions and recommendations formed through discussions within the CICA Think Tank Forum play a crucial role in shaping the priority areas of foreign policies for each country. In the current international context, think tanks can play a special role in maintaining stability and security. CICA experts should unite and discuss how to prevent a comprehensive conflict. CICA member states need to continue promoting think tank cooperation in three main ways: first, by discussing major issues and sharing insights with government agencies, including issues related to water, energy, and regional stability. This will help strengthen trust between countries, resolve conflicts, and create opportunities for collaboration in addressing global challenges. Second, by conducting joint research on the economic cooperation effects between specific countries, with a focus on issues such as transport corridors and new channels, gaining a deep understanding of the socio-economic cooperation processes in Asia. Third, by promoting exchange among experts from CICA Member States through the publication of professional academic articles, fostering a common understanding of the current situation and deepening communication and cooperation among Member States.

Qiang Xiaoyun, Director, Center for Russian-Central Asian Studies, SIIS, China

Over the past few years, CICA has evolved into the largest and most representative regional security forum in Asia, covering the widest range and boasting the highest number of members. In the face of rising threats and challenges worldwide, the significance of CICA in shaping security has become even more prominent. CICA needs to pay closer attention to the diverse needs of all parties, striking a balance between representation and cohesion to play a more constructive role in regional and international affairs.

While CICA member and observer countries each bring unique perspectives, their diverse geographical locations and cultural backgrounds, along with differing security demands,

objectively increase the internal coordination challenges and cooperation hurdles in various fields for CICA. Balancing the relationship between representation and cohesion requires establishing a systematic resolution path based on common values. CICA Member States share common values and aspirations, accepting the joint formulation of international plans, and the collective identity formed contributes to achieving higher-level cooperation within CICA.

Continuing to uphold mutual learning and exchange, advocating for the harmonious coexistence of Asian civilizations, and promoting genuine multilateralism are essential for safeguarding the vital interests of Asian countries. Asian nations have the responsibility and capability to shoulder the burden, collectively safeguard regional peace, contribute to international affairs, and lead the world back into the era of peaceful development.

Sheikha Najla Al Qassimi, Director, Global Affairs Division, Dubai Public Policy Research Centre (B'huth), Ambassador, UAE

CICA member states possess rich and diverse historical and cultural backgrounds. Currently, Asia is facing complex and challenging issues, and think tanks from various countries can play a crucial role in addressing these challenges, contributing to the development of CICA across multiple domains. The CICA Think Tank Forum should prioritize research on relevant topics, including issues of concern to governments, such as green economy and blue economy, by convening discussions with experts from different industries. Additionally, it should provide insights for the CICA transformation roadmap and the development of CICA mechanisms.

The inclusion of diverse cultures is particularly important for the development of the CICA mechanism. Through the platform of the CICA Think Tank Forum, communication among experts, youth, and various representatives from different countries can be facilitated, fostering mutual understanding.

Du Xijiang, Director, the Belt and Road Finance Research Institute (Shanghai), Export-Import Bank, China

Against the backdrop of a once-in-a-century global transformation, the external environment for the transformation of the CICA mechanism is undergoing new changes. In the process of transitioning into an international organization, CICA needs to adhere to a "single concept" and construct and improve the "three mechanisms." On one hand, it should uphold the concept of open development, continuously promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and uphold and practice multilateralism. Focus should be on the common concerns of regional countries, facilitating better economic policy coordination and strategic development alignment among Member States to achieve high-quality development. On the other hand, the construction and improvement of the "three mechanisms" include:

1. Building a Financing Cooperation Mechanism: Economic development and project construction in various countries require support from the financial industry. Financial institutions play a bridging role and can provide corresponding financial support in key areas of global development initiatives such as development investment, climate change, green development, industrial digitization, and connectivity.

2. Establishing a Knowledge Sharing Mechanism: Strengthening cooperation in the knowledge domain through North-South and South-South collaborations is crucial, contributing significantly to inclusive development in the region and globally.
3. Enhancing International Rules Mechanism: Leveraging existing regional cooperation mechanisms, including CICA, to better promote the effectiveness of multilateral and bilateral cooperation. Further increasing the voice of developing countries, including CICA member states, in multilateral mechanisms and enhancing their representation in global and regional international organizations.



The Eleventh Meeting of the CICA Think Tank Forum

Building an Asia of Mutual Learning and Win-win Cooperation: The Role and Mission of CICA

Organized by:

Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS)

Foreign Affairs Office of Qinghai Province

Supervised by:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China

Xining, Qinghai, China

August 27 - 30, 2023

PROGRAM

August 27, 2023 (Sunday)

All Day Registration and Check-in
Qinghai Victory Hotel
(No. 160 Huanghe Road, Xining 810001 China)

18:00-19:00 Welcome Banquet Hosted by Provincial Leaders
Changjiang Hall, Building No. 10, Qinghai Victory
Hotel
Dress Code: Formal

August 28, 2023 (Monday)

09:00-11:30 Excursion (Optional)
Ta'er Monastery

Lunch Buffet
Building No. 9, Qinghai Victory Hotel

Plenary Session

No. 1 Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Wanda Vista Xining Hotel

(No. 76 Xichuan South Road, Xining 810000 China)

Dress Code: Formal

15:00-15:40 Opening Ceremony

Moderator: Chen Dongxiao, President, SIIS, China

Speakers: (5-8 minutes/speaker)

1. Ms. Wang Haihong, Vice Governor of Qinghai Provincial Government
2. H.E. Mr. Kairat Sarybay, Secretary General, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)
3. Cheng Wei, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China
4. H.E. Mr. Shakhrat Nuryshev, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to China
5. H.E. Mr. Sobirzoda Shukhrat Gulmakhmad, Deputy Secretary General, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (Video Message)

15:40-15:55 Group Photo and Coffee Break

15:55-16:00 Adoption of the Agenda

Moderator: Chen Dongxiao, President, SIIS, China

16:00-17:30 Session 1: Mutual Learning among Civilizations and the Path to Coexistence among CICA Member States

Over the course of millennia, the cultural and civilizational evolution of CICA Member States has flowed like an expansive river, converging into the vibrant mosaic of contemporary Asia. The diverse cultural landscapes of Asia serve as the crystallized embodiment of humanity's knowledge and wisdom, constituting precious treasures for each CICA Member State. Instead of becoming sources of division or confrontation, the variances in culture and civilization ought to be harnessed as inexhaustible propellers of mutual enrichment and shared understanding. Consequently, this Session is dedicated to exploring the following focal points:

1) What underlying commonalities and pronounced distinctions characterize the civilizations across CICA countries? Which reservoirs of knowledge and experiential insights do you consider most invaluable for steering the developmental trajectory of present-day Asia and warrant dissemination to the wider

community?

2) Amidst the prevailing international and regional dynamics, how can CICA Member States actively foster exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations, underpinned by the principles of reciprocal respect and understanding? To what extent has your nation's historical civilization played a pivotal role in shaping its contemporary national developmental trajectory, and has it gleaned insights and inspiration from the wellspring of wisdom embedded in other Asian civilizations?

3) In light of the current international landscape, how can CICA Member States channel their rich historical civilizations into fostering dialogue, understanding, and mutual learning? How can the diverse modes of modernization pursued by different nations be perceived in terms of historical and contemporary contexts, and what significance does the array of modernization models hold for the peaceful development of the region and the world?

4) As we progress towards constructing an intricate web of dialogue among Asian civilizations and intensify efforts to enhance mutual understanding, trust, solidarity, and cooperative ventures, how can the CICA mechanism assume a more robust role in driving these initiatives and further nurturing a climate of harmonious coexistence among its Member States?

Moderator: Li Yongquan, Director, Eurasian Social Development Research Institute, Development Research Center of the State Council, China

Speakers: (10 minutes/speaker)

1. ***The Asian Civilizations and CICA: Constructive Interplay for World Progress***

Yang Jiemian, President Emeritus and Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council, SIIS, China (online)

2. ***CICA and the World of Civilizational Pluralism***

Alexander Lukin, Director, Center for East Asian and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Studies at Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University), Russia (online)

3. ***New Dynamism in Eurasia and the Future of CICA Mechanism***

Seyed Mohammad Marandi, Vice President for International Affairs, the University of Tehran, Iran (online)

4. ***Building Dialogue Among Civilizations Towards Mutual Understanding Among Regions***

Sheradil Baktygulov, Research Fellow, The National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of

the Kyrgyz Republic (online)

5. ***Civilizational Dialogue in a Multipolar World***

Tarik M. Yousef, Director, the Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar (online)

6. ***Overview on Activities of SAM and Türkiye's Approach to CICA***

Serhad Varlı, Head of Department, Center for Strategic Research (SAM) of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye (online)

Discussion: (30 minutes)

Dinner **Buffet**

Building No. 9, Qinghai Victory Hotel

August 29, 2023 (Tuesday)

Morning **Excursion (Optional)**

Museum of Natural Resources of Qinghai Province

Lunch **Buffet**

Building No. 9, Qinghai Victory Hotel

Plenary Session

No. 1 Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, Wanda Vista Xining Hotel

Dress Code: Formal

14:30-16:20 Session 2: Security, Stability, and Win-Win Cooperation among CICA Member States

The intensification of international geopolitical conflicts has brought about a period of seismic shifts in the global arena. The ongoing march of globalization has encountered unprecedented challenges, juxtaposed with a surge in international and regional conflicts, marked by the COVID-19 pandemic's successive blows to the world economy, including the economies of the Asian region. This juncture urgently requires a recalibration of strategies. Moreover, humanity is currently grappling with the global climate crisis, an escalation in biodiversity loss risks, and the advent of fresh challenges ushered in by the rapid advancement of emerging digital technologies. On a global scale, the imperatives of green and digital transformation loom large, exacerbating the urgency for sustainable development initiatives. Amidst this complex and stern international landscape, CICA Member States are mobilizing effective countermeasures to mitigate diverse security risks while advancing collaborative efforts that cultivate shared gains. To this end, this

Session is focused on deliberating the following pivotal inquiries:

1) How ought the multitude of systemic risks and challenges confronting the world and the local region be interpreted? Which of these risks are analogous to "gray rhinos" and "black swans," demanding vigilant attention? How can the CICA mechanism be optimized to proactively address, prevent, and resolve security risks?

2) Against the backdrop of certain nations amplifying ideological schisms, advocating "decoupling" and risk aversion, and advocating for "friend-shoring" production and supply chain restructuring, what is the outlook for the development of open economic systems globally and regionally? How should we perceive the dynamic evolution of various multilateral, plurilateral, and unilateral mechanisms in the realm of economic development in the region? What strategies are required to bolster regional economic cooperation, promote open and inclusive development networks, and ensure the openness and stability of essential raw material supply chains?

3) In the face of intensifying global climate change and escalating risks of biodiversity loss, what novel opportunities and challenges are unfolding for CICA Member States, particularly in the realm of green development and energy transition? What lessons

and effective cooperation experiences in the realm of sustainable development, including collective response to environmental and public health risks, can be shared among the nations of the region? What novel challenges necessitate collaborative efforts?

4) How have the advancements in emerging digital technologies presented a realm of new opportunities for CICA Member States? Conversely, what novel security risks have emerged, requiring strategic responses? How can CICA Member States harness the wave of technological innovation to drive societal transformation, and to what extent can the CICA provide invaluable support in navigating these transformative waters?

Moderator: Quan Heng, Party Secretary, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, China

Speakers: (10 minutes/speaker)

1. ***Prospects for Future Development and Cooperation of Clean Energy Industry in Qinghai***

Du Qinghua, Director, Economic Research Institute, Qinghai Academy of Social Sciences, China

2. ***Middle Corridor: Connecting Azerbaijan with Central Asia and China***

Naghi Ahmadov, Leading Advisor, Center of Analysis of International Relations, Azerbaijan (online)

3. ***Establishment of the Central Asian Tropical Disease Network Promotes Whole Health Development***

Zhou Xiaonong, Director, National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention & Chinese Center for Tropical Diseases Research, Shanghai, China (online)

4. ***Trust, Dialogue and Cooperation as a Basis for Comprehensive Interaction of the CICA Member States***

Akramjon Nematov, Deputy Director, Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (online)

5. ***New Picture of Digital Development and Prospects for CICA Cooperation***

Liu Yue, Deputy Director, Security Research Institute, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), China

6. ***Tajikistan's Contribution to Ensuring Regional and International Security***

Saidhomid Sharifzoda, Head of the Department, Center for Strategic Research under the President of

the Republic of Tajikistan (online)

7. ***Improve the Construction of the CICA Mechanism, Enhance the Strength of the CICA Cooperation in Regional Economic Development***

Zhang Yujing, President, China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products; Chairman, CICA Business Council, China

Discussion: (40 minutes)

16:20-16:35 Coffee Break

16:35-18:05 Session 3: CICA as an International Organization: Mechanism Building and Concept Innovation

Symbolized by the Astana Summit, the CICA Conference has initiated the process of transitioning into an international organization, a pivotal hallmark of the CICA mechanism's leapfrog development. However, this transition process is intricate; it necessitates not only the establishment of more systematic and refined mechanisms but also innovations in security philosophies. As a significant platform for intellectual dialogue within the CICA framework, the CICA Think Tank Forum stands poised to furnish rich and effective knowledge provisions to facilitate the

transformation of the CICA mechanism.

Within this Session, we extend a warm welcome to experts from think tanks across nations, inviting them to delve into discussions concerning the progression of the CICA Conference's transformation into an international organization. We especially encourage valuable insights and suggestions encompassing the augmentation of pertinent organizational mechanisms, the advancement of conceptual paradigms, and the innovation of normative frameworks. Concurrently, we also invite experts to contribute to the evolution of the CICA Think Tank Forum by providing strategic recommendations for its growth and efficacy.

Moderator: Zhao Long, Deputy Director, Institute for Global Governance Studies, SIIS, China

Speakers: (10 minutes/speaker)

1. ***CICA Transformation Process: Retrospective, Overview & Outlook***

H.E. Mr. Kairat Sarybay, Secretary General, CICA

2. ***New Changes in the International Security Landscape and the Functional Positioning of the CICA***

Sun Zhuangzhi, Director, Institute of Russia, Eastern Europe & Central Asian Studies, Chinese Academy of

Social Sciences (CASS), China

3. ***CICA as an International Organization: Mechanism Building and Concept Innovation***

Yerkin Tukumov, Director, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (online)

4. ***Balancing the Cohesion and Representativeness of the CICA Mechanism***

Qiang Xiaoyun, Director, Center for Russian-Central Asian Studies, SIIS, China (online)

5. ***Regional Think Tank as a Catalyst to Generate Innovative Ideas and Cooperation to Support CICA Mechanism***

Sheikha Najla Al Qassimi, Director, Global Affairs Division, Dubai Public Policy Research Centre (B'huth), Ambassador, UAE (online)

6. ***Enhancing Practical Cooperation to Facilitate the Common Development of CICA Member States***

Du Xijiang, Director, the Belt and Road Finance Research Institute (Shanghai), Export-Import Bank, China

Discussion: (30 minutes)

18:05-18:15 Closing Ceremony

Moderator: Wang Zhizhong, Director General, Foreign Affairs
Office of Qinghai Province, China

Speaker: Chen Dongxiao, President, SIIS, China

Dinner Buffet

Building No. 9, Qinghai Victory Hotel

August 30, 2023 (Wednesday)

08:30-11:30 Excursion (Optional)

Qinghai Lake

Lunch Qinghai Lake Lake-View Hotel

14:30-15:30 Excursion (Optional)

Przewalski's Gazelle Observation Site

All Day Departure from Xining

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SPECIAL GUESTS

H.E. Mr. **Kairat Sarybay**, Secretary General, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

H.E. Mr. **Sobirzoda Shukhrat Gulmakhmad**, Deputy Secretary General, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) (video message)

Wang Haihong, Vice Governor of Qinghai Provincial Government

Qiu Jichun, Deputy Secretary General of Qinghai Provincial Government

Cheng Wei, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China

Wang Zhizhong, Director General, Foreign Affairs Office of Qinghai Province, China

Ma Naixin, Deputy Director General, Foreign Affairs Office of Qinghai Province, China

DIPLOMATS OF CICA MEMBER STATES TO CHINA (countries in alphabetical order)

H.E. Dr. **Mohamed Ghassan Mohamed Adnan Shaikho**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to China

H.E. Mr. **Shakhrat Nuryshev**, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan to China

H.E. Mr. **Fariz Mehdawi**, Ambassador of the State of Palestine to China

H.E. Mr. **Arthayudh Srisamoot**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to China

Kamoltip Srisamoot, Spouse of Ambassador of the Kingdom of Thailand to China

Nhek Soparama, Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Kingdom of Cambodia to China

Reza Pirpiran, Counsellor, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran to China

Hussain Ali Abdulbaqi Alrammah, Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to China

Maizy Eliash Filkovsky, Political Counsellor, Embassy of the State of Israel to China

Daulet Bakbergenov, Third Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to China

Bolat Yeskendirov, Attaché, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan to China

Faisal Alshammari, First Secretary, Embassy of the State of Kuwait to China

Tsogtsaikhan Mandakh, Counsellor, Embassy of Mongolia to China

Nasreen Fatima, Counsellor, Embassy of the Islamic State of Pakistan to China

Ali Hussain Al-Badr, First Secretary, Embassy of the State of Qatar to China

Ivan Bolshakov, Second Secretary, Embassy of Russian Federation to China

Orhan Aydin, Second Secretary/Political Officer, Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye to China

Abdulla Alshamsi, Second Secretary, Embassy of the United Arab Emirates to

China

SPEAKERS (countries in alphabetical order)

Naghi Ahmadov, Leading Advisor, Center of Analysis of International Relations, Azerbaijan (online)

Chen Dongxiao, President, Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), China

Du Qinghua, Director, Economic Research Institute, Qinghai Academy of Social Sciences, China

Du Xijiang, Director, the Belt and Road Financial Research Institute (Shanghai) of the Export-Import Bank of China

Li Yongquan, Director, Eurasian Social Development Research Institute, Development Research Center of the State Council, China

Liu Yue, Deputy Director, Security Research Institute, China Academy of Information and Communications Technology (CAICT), China

Qiang Xiaoyun, Director, Center for Russian-Central Asian Studies, SIIS, China (online)

Quan Heng, Party Secretary, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, China

Sun Zhuangzhi, Director, Institute of Russia, Eastern Europe & Central Asian Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China

Yang Jiemian, President Emeritus and Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council, SIIS, China (online)

Zhang Yujing, President, China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products; Chairman, CICA Business Council, China

Zhao Long, Deputy Director, Institute for Global Governance Studies, SIFS, China

Zhou Xiaonong, Director, National Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention & Chinese Center for Tropical Diseases Research, Shanghai, China (online)

Seyed Mohammad Marandi, Vice President for International Affairs, the University of Tehran, Iran (online)

Yerkin Tukumov, Director, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (online)

Sheradil Baktygulov, Research Fellow, National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic (online)

Tarik M. Yousef, Director, the Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar (online)

Alexander Lukin, Director, Center for East Asian and Shanghai Cooperation Organization Studies at Moscow State Institute of International Relations, (MGIMO-University), Russia (online)

Saidhomid Sharifzoda, Head of the Department, Center for Strategic Research under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan (online)

Serhad Varlı, Head of Department, Center for Strategic Research (SAM) of

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye (online)

Sheikha Najla Al Qassimi, Director, Global Affairs Division, Dubai Public Policy Research Centre (B'huth), Ambassador, UAE (online)

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Hou Danwei, Journalist, *The Paper* (Pengpai News), China

Jiang Lixiao, Research Fellow, Institute for World Economy Studies, SIIS, China

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