

**STATEMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**  
**Seventh Summit of the Conference on Interaction and**  
**Confidence Building Measures in Asia – CICA**  
**Delivered by His Excellency Khalifa Shaheen Al Marar –**  
**Minister of State**  
**Baku, 15 October 2026**

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**In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful**

- **His Excellency Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;**
- **Your Excellencies, Heads of State of friendly countries;**
- **Your Excellencies;**
- **His Excellency the Secretary General of the Conference;**

At the outset, I convey to you the greetings of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and his wishes for the success of this meeting, and we welcome the Lao People's Democratic Republic Membership.

**Your Excellencies,**

At a time of accelerating change, mounting challenges and deepening divisions, my country has chosen not to allow these circumstances to determine its destiny or the future of its people. **My country has chosen to continue advancing progress and development across all sectors, guided by its steadfast**

commitment to promoting peace and stability, strengthening dialogue and cooperation, respecting the sovereignty of States, and supporting multilateralism. The United Arab Emirates also attaches great importance to building bridges and mutual trust, thereby helping to address shared challenges and achieve development and prosperity.

These principles are consistent with the objectives of the **Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**, particularly those of building trust and cooperation among Member States, supporting security and stability, and encouraging constructive dialogue and joint action to address regional and international challenges.

The theme of the Seventh CICA Summit centers on connectivity, digitalization and sustainable growth in Asia. The priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship in these areas align with the vision and policy direction of the United Arab Emirates:

**In advancing connectivity, the United Arab Emirates seeks to consolidate its position as a regional and global hub for trade and logistics connectivity**, providing countries in the region with additional channels and corridors to access global markets, facilitate movement of goods and people, improve supply chain efficiency, and create new opportunities for trade, investment and economic cooperation, thereby strengthening regional integration.

The UAE has advanced this objective by high-quality investments in its ports, airports and national railway network, alongside an expanding network of Comprehensive Economic Partnership

Agreements, and active participation in transcontinental economic corridors initiatives.

The United Arab Emirates also seeks to share its expertise and successful experience in transportation, trade connectivity and infrastructure, both bilaterally and through multilateral organizations and groupings, as the G20, BRICS and others.

### **Your Excellencies,**

In light of recent events in the Middle East, the United Arab Emirates has taken practical measures to strengthen supply chain resilience and ensure the uninterrupted flow of goods. It increased the capacity of its east coast ports, with access to open seas, to twenty times their previous level, and daily truck movements between ports across the country to thirty times their previous level, while fully maintaining its strategic commodity reserves. Non-oil foreign trade reached AED 1.937 trillion (US \$ 526 billions) in the first six months of 2026, 13.1% more compared to the same period in 2025. This reflects the sustained upward trajectory of UAE trade, as well as the strength of the UAE economy despite changing global conditions.

In this context, **the United Arab Emirates underscores the importance of safeguarding maritime security and safety**, and ensuring freedom of navigation through international waterways in accordance with international law.

**With regard to digitalization**, the UAE's approach aligns with that of the Conference. **The UAE supports the use of digital and emerging technologies, especially artificial intelligence**, accelerating their adoption across sectors, and to identify,

monitor, and mitigate risks, improve preparedness for, and response to, incidents, and encourage the exchange of expertise and best practices among countries. This, in turn, contributes to **improving the effectiveness of occupational safety and health systems and supporting sustainable economic and social development.**

**In promoting sustainable growth,** the United Arab Emirates continues to strengthen an integrated approach to development that combines economic growth, environmental sustainability and climate action through economic diversification, greater resource efficiency, the promotion of a circular economy, and investment in innovation and advanced technology. The UAE also pursues a balanced and pragmatic approach to the energy transition that takes account of the reliability and affordability of energy supplies, while expanding clean and renewable energy and strengthening adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

In this context, the United Arab Emirates, in partnership with the Senegal, will host the **2026 United Nations Water Conference** in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 10 December this year. Through the Conference, we seek to accelerate the transition from commitments to implementation and deliver tangible results by strengthening international cooperation, mobilizing financing and investment, expanding partnerships, and harnessing innovation and technology to develop practical, scalable solutions that improve the lives of communities and support sustainable development and prosperity for all and we invite the all to participate in this conference.

**In closing,** we look forward to strengthening cooperation in the priority areas included by the Chairmanship on the agenda of the seventh session of the **CICA**, and to continuing our joint efforts to translate these priorities into practical avenues for constructive cooperation, under Azerbaijan's chairmanship of CICA in the next term. We as well, welcome the upcoming secretary general for CICA.

**Thank you, Mr. President.**