



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

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

**№MIN/836**

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the CICA Member States and on behalf of the CICA Chairmanship has the honour to forward the updated concept paper of the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues to be held on 28 August 2024 in an online format and the preliminary programme of the event.

*Enclosure:  
as stated,  
on 11 p.*

A kind reminder that the Chairmanship sent the invitations in February-March 2024 through bilateral channels and confirmation of the participants is expected to the addresses below.

The points of contact for the above-mentioned event are Ms. Fariza Abduova, Head of the Multilateral Cooperation Office of the International Cooperation Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (e-mail: [f.abduova@ecogeo.gov.kz](mailto:f.abduova@ecogeo.gov.kz)) and Mr. Aldiyar Kapyshev, CICA Secretariat Officer (e-mail: [a.kapyshev@s-cica.org](mailto:a.kapyshev@s-cica.org)).

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

Astana, 16 July 2024



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



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И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

**№MIN/836**

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и от имени Председательства СВМДА имеет честь направить обновленную концепцию Министерской конференции СВМДА по проблемам экологии, которая состоится 28 августа 2024 года в онлайн-формате, а также предварительную программу мероприятия.

*Приложение:  
упомянутое,  
на 11 л.*

Любезно напоминаем, что Председательство направило приглашения в феврале-марте 2024 года по двусторонним каналам, и участие следует подтвердить по указанным ниже адресам.

Контактные лица по вышеназванному мероприятию – Руководитель Управления многостороннего сотрудничества Департамента международного сотрудничества Министерства экологии и природных ресурсов Республики Казахстан г-жа Фариза Абдуова (электронная почта: [fabduova@ecogeo.gov.kz](mailto:fabduova@ecogeo.gov.kz)), специалист Секретариата СВМДА г-н Алдияр Капышев (электронная почта: [a.kapyshev@s-cica.org](mailto:a.kapyshev@s-cica.org)).

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

город Астана, 16 июля 2024 г.



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

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (Азия Кеңесінің) Хатшылығы Азия Кеңесіне мүше мемлекеттерге өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіреді және Азия Кеңесінің Төрағалығы атынан 2024 жылғы 28 тамызда онлайн форматта өтетін Азия Кеңесінің Экология мәселелері жөніндегі министрлік конференциясының жаңартылған тұжырымдамасын, сондай-ақ іс-шараның алдын ала бағдарламасын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

Қосымша:  
аталған,  
11 п.

Төрағалық 2024 жылдың ақпан-наурыз айларында екіжақты арналар арқылы шақырулар жібергенін және қатысуды төменде көрсетілген мекенжайлар бойынша растау қажет екенін еске саламыз.

Жоғарыда аталған іс-шара бойынша байланыс тұлғалар – Қазақстан Республикасы Экология және табиғи ресурстар министрлігі Халықаралық ынтымақтастық департаменті Көпжақты ынтымақтастық басқармасының басшысы Фариза Абдуова ханым (электрондық пошта: [f.abduova@ecogeo.gov.kz](mailto:f.abduova@ecogeo.gov.kz)), Азия Кеңесі Хатшылығының маманы Алдияр Капышев мырза (электрондық пошта: [a.kapyshev@s-cica.org](mailto:a.kapyshev@s-cica.org)).

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

Астана қаласы, 2024 жылғы 16 шілде

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



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Chairmanship of Kazakhstan

As recommended by  
the Senior Officials Committee

**DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENT OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL  
CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

We, the Ministers responsible for environmental affairs and high-level representatives of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), convened in Astana for the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues on 28 August 2024, at the invitation of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Expressing gratitude to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev for his visionary initiative during the Sixth CICA Summit to hold this Conference,

Reaffirming our commitment to addressing the urgent environmental challenges facing the CICA region within the framework of sustainable development goals,

Mindful of our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities to preserve, protect and improve our environment for the present and future generations, stressing the importance of fostering cooperation and implementing effective measures to address pressing environmental issues recognizing that Asia's diversity and rich potential in natural resources requires collaborative efforts to ensure the conservation of our natural resources and mitigation of environmental risks as well as adaptation to such risks,

Emphasizing cooperation in confronting climate disasters before and after they occur and delivering humanitarian and environmental aid to citizens of countries,

Encouraging CICA Member States to share learnings, best practices and ideas from regional projects to confront the negative effects of climate change and

biodiversity loss and pollution, holding conferences and seminars for CICA countries to enhance environmental cooperation,

Recognizing the vulnerability of many CICA Member States to climate change, stressing collective action on the basis of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement, urging developed countries to provide new financial sources to finance adaptation and mitigation measures of CICA countries,

Acknowledging the comprehensive significance of a green and sustainable economy in the context of sustainable development, strongly committing to adopting measures to increase ecological awareness and cultivate ecological culture, striving to exchange knowledge, best practices and practical experiences on circular economy and enhance cooperation for sustainable development goals in a balanced and integrated manner under the CICA platform, while recognizing the special capacities and capabilities of developing countries in this regard,

Emphasizing the critical importance of multilateral cooperation and knowledge exchange among CICA Member States, including the regional implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and Global Framework on Chemicals among the interested parties,

Reiterating the importance of addressing the pressing challenges posed by all forms of pollution in our communities, we encourage the implementation of environmentally friendly solutions, including the Zero Waste Initiative, taking into account national circumstances and capabilities,

Emphasizing the critical nature of clean water, climate resilience in the water sector, as well as marine and coastal ecosystem conservation, stressing the importance of continuous efforts for restoration of coastal ecosystem for coastal protection as well as enhancing integrated and sustainable water management related to environment at all appropriate levels through extensive exchange of best practices,

Encouraging the strengthening of cooperation in the field of adaptation, especially the agriculture, health, and water sectors, to achieve water sustainability, food security and nutrition and good health for all countries,

DECIDED TO CHART THE FUTURE COURSE OF OUR COOPERATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. Acknowledging the vital need for proactive and sustained efforts in addressing the pressing environmental issues facing our region, consistent sharing of best practices, and fostering regular meetings between relevant ministries or agencies, we believe it could be beneficial to foster cooperation between the CICA Member States in the field of environment;
2. We commit to strengthening cooperation in the field of water management related to environment, including capacity building and mutual technological transfer especially in line with the sustainable development goals;
3. Understanding the gravity of climate change and its cross-cutting impact on our region, we affirm our commitment to engage in exchange of experiences, best practices and achievements to tackle climate change and its impact and adaptation within the purview of UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement and in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. These actions will address the negative consequences of environmental factors and engage all relevant stakeholders in a collective effort to promote environmental awareness in the CICA region;
4. We intend to improve the quality of life and health and to promote the exchange of experiences on climate change mitigation and adaptation, reversing biodiversity loss, sustainable water management related to environment, ecosystem management and pollution control;
5. We commit to supporting CICA Member States in achieving their environmental goals and to promoting sustainability in our nations.

In conclusion, we reiterate our commitment to the principles of CICA and our common but differentiated responsibilities to address environmental and climate challenges. This High-level Statement serves as a testament to our collective determination to create a sustainable future for the CICA region.

**Astana, 28 August 2024**

**CONCEPT PAPER**  
**of the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues**  
*(28 August 2024)*

## **Introduction**

At the Sixth CICA Summit, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed to hold a CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues in Astana in 2024 to discuss approaches to solving environmental problems.

In this regard, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan initiates the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues on 28 August 2024 in an online format, as well as CICA experts meetings to prepare for this Conference during 2023-2024.

The CICA region has an extensive geography, with the Member States facing many different environmental and climatic challenges.

Therefore, it is expected that this Conference will make a significant contribution to the promotion of necessary measures and actions to address regional environmental problems of the CICA Member States.

## **Goals and objectives of the 2024 Conference on Environmental Issues:**

- 1) Defining the priorities of the CICA Member States on environmental issues;
- 2) Promoting the goals of the CICA Member States on environmental sustainability;
- 3) Discussing the problems caused by climate change and environmental pollution and exchanging best practices to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as to identify ways to solve environmental problems in the CICA region;
- 4) Fostering the green development process of the CICA Member States.

## **Main topics for the Ministerial Conference**

The Ministerial Conference participants are invited to discuss five topics on environmental issues:

- pollution;
- climate change;
- green and sustainable economy;
- biodiversity;
- clean water.



## **Pollution**

In order to improve the quality of life and health, it is necessary to improve the quality of environment.

In this context, it is expected to be discussed all forms of pollution in our communities.

A comprehensive study is envisaged on air pollution control in the light of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in the area of good health and well-being (SDG 3), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), as well as industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9).

## **Climate change**

It is essential to take measures against climate change, the effects of which are being felt more and more every year; it is also necessary to take appropriate action. Today, many CICA Member States are extremely vulnerable to climate change.

In the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, it is important for the CICA Member States to be aware of policies and actions against climate change, based on the means of implementation provided by committed countries.

Climate change is linked to every SDG, especially measures of climate action (SDG 13).

## **Green and sustainable economy**

Green and sustainable economy, one of the most serious and comprehensive topics of our time, concerns every stakeholder, individual and country.

Green economy, one of the steps for countries to transition their economies into a sustainable form, requires the timely adoption of a set of necessary measures to build an environmental culture and awareness among the population for creating sustainable systems.

It is expected that the Conference will provide an opportunity to share practical experience and effective methods in the area of green and sustainable economy among CICA countries and will promote the achievement of SDGs for all countries.

## **Biodiversity**

It is expected that the Conference will discuss the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework at the regional level.

Exchanging policy, regulation and practical experiences in the field of protected areas management, including national parks, nature parks, nature

monuments and nature reserve areas with a particular focus on enhancing biodiversity conservation strategies, promoting sustainable practices and fostering ecosystem resilience, while also encompassing effective measures to address the challenges to protected areas and explore innovative approaches to strengthen regional cooperation in biodiversity management.

## **Clean water**

Enhancing collective cooperation in solving problems in the field of clean water, climate resilience in the water sector, and the conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems (SDG 14).

It is expected that the sustainable water management related to environment among the CICA Member States can be enhanced through the exchange of knowledge and best practices as well as the sharing and development of new technologies and increasing investments to utilize climate-resilient water infrastructure.

### **To achieve the goals of the Conference, the following objectives are envisaged:**

1) Considering environmental priorities under the CICA dimension in consultations with coordinators and co-coordinators during the CICA Member States' experts meetings that will be held in 2024 before the Conference.

2) Raising awareness of the CICA Member States about implemented confidence building measures and potential areas of cooperation in priority areas of the environmental dimension.

3) Enhancing interaction among stakeholders (environment experts, decision-making bodies, etc.) of the CICA Member States.

## **Dates of the Conference**

The Conference is scheduled to be held on 28 August 2024 in an online format.

## **Participants**

It is expected that the online Conference will be attended by environment ministers or other high-level authorized officials from CICA Member States.

It is not expected to invite observers or guests.

**Working languages:** Russian, English.

## **Status of the Conference**

In accordance with the decision of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) No. SOC/2024/DEC/1 dated 1 February 2024 the Conference will be convened in the form of a CICA Specialized Meeting under Article 8 of the CICA Rules of Procedure.

## **Outcome document**

It is proposed that the Conference will adopt the draft High-level Statement, which was approved by the SOC on 11 July 2024 (available at <https://s-cica.org/docs/1736190154669115e319ff9.pdf> and attached herewith).

The Conference will emphasize the importance of acting in accordance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances, and the particular commitments of developed countries.

## **Expected practical results of the Conference:**

Will be reflected in the outcome document.

**PROGRAMME**  
**of the CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues**  
*(online format)*

**28 August 2024**

- 13.30-13.35** - **Opening of the Conference**  
*(Astana time)* *Welcoming remarks: (time limit up to 3 minutes)*  
**Yerlan Nyssanbayev**, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
**Kairat Sarybay**, CICA Secretary General Ambassador
- 13.35-16.00** **Statements by heads of delegation**  
Time limit: 4-5 minutes.  
Interpretation: simultaneous (*Russian, English*)  
Speaking order (alphabetical):
- Mukhtar **Babayev**, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Mohamed **bin Mubarak bin Daina**, Minister of Oil and Environment of the Kingdom of Bahrain
  - Saber **Hossain Chowdhury**, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
  - Eang **Sophalleth**, Minister of Environment of the Kingdom of Cambodia
  - Huang **Runqiu**, Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China
  - Yasmine **Fouad**, Minister of Environment of the Arab Republic of Egypt
  - Bhupender **Yadav**, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Climate Change of the Republic of India
  - Ali **Salajegheh**, Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Head of the Department of Environment

- Nizar Mohammed **Saeed Amidi**, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Iraq
- Idit **Silman**, Minister of Environmental Protection of the State of Israel
- Muawieh Khalid **Radaideh**, Minister of Environment of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Yerlan **Nyissanbayev**, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Dr. Mahmoud Abdulaziz Muhammad Busheri, Minister of Electricity, Water and Renewable Energy of the State of Kuwait
- Melis Turgunbaev, Minister of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Bat-Ulzii **Bat-Erdene**, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia
- Ahmad Irfan **Aslam**, Minister of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Adalah **Atira**, Minister of the Environment Quality Authority of the State of Palestine
- Abdullah bin Abdulaziz **bin Turki Al-Subaie**, Minister of Environment and Climate Change of the State of Qatar
- Han **Wha-jin**, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea
- Alexander **Kozlov**, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation
- Ranil **Wickremesinghe**, Minister of Environment of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
- Sheralizoda **Bahodur**, Chairman of the Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
- Jatuporn **Buruspat**, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Kingdom of Thailand
- Murat **Kurum**, Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye
- Dr. Amna bint Abdullah **Al Dahak**, Minister of Climate Change and Environment of the United Arab Emirates

-Aziz **Abdukhakimov**, Minister of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change of the Republic of Uzbekistan

-Dang Quoc **Khanh**, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of VietNam

**16.00-16.05** - **Closing remarks by Mr. Yerlan Nyssanbayev, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan** *(3 min)*

*Adoption of the High-level Statement at the Conference*

**16.05-16.10** - **Adoption of the final document**

**Closing of the Conference**