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**CONCEPT PAPER
ON
COOPERATION AMONG THE CICA MEMBER STATES IN THE AREA OF
TOURISM**

Introduction

To foster international cooperation, the Member States of the Conference of the Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), in the short span of its activity, has elaborated certain guidelines and principles for the voluntary participation of the Member States in implementation of confidence building measures within the framework of the international cooperation that positively influences on strengthening an atmosphere of peace and friendship. In the context of international cooperation one of the important priorities within the CICA framework is cooperation in the area of tourism.

In contemporary conditions, the sphere of tourism, as a significant sector for interaction among the states, is a factor of contributing to global integration processes and also a way of boosting foreign economic relations. The tourism promotes development of international links, trade exchange, transportations, insurance operations, services dealing with capital investments, scientific and technical, as well as cultural ties, information and consultation services, which stimulates public diplomacy that in turn promotes convergence among the peoples and their cultures.

Keeping in view the above factors of tourism that positively reflect on the development of states, the adoption of concept paper on cooperation among the CICA Member States in the area of tourism, which can stimulate confidence building measures among the states, deserves a special evaluation.

In accordance with the Catalogue of the CICA CBMs accepted at the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of CICA in October, 2004, and the Cooperative Approach for the implementation of the CICA CBMs approved by the meeting of the Senior Officials Committee in March, 2007, the Republic of Tajikistan took the initiative on coordination of confidence building measures on cooperation among the CICA Member States in the area of tourism. The Republic of Tajikistan will continue to coordinate in the priority area of «tourism» according to the updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures adopted by the sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting on 12 October 2021.

The present Concept Paper presents purposes, principles, basic directions and approaches within the framework of cooperation in the area of tourism and assumes the development of the Plan of Action for implementation of the aimed confidence building measures in the direction of tourism within the CICA framework.

The Concept Paper on international cooperation in the area of tourism within the framework of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia are based on modern principles taking a note of interests of all parties which encourage development of cooperation on equal basis and directed to use their potential in the interests of common goals.

The policy of cooperation in the area of tourism within the CICA framework should be based on norms of the international law and national legislation of the Member States.

The CICA Member States adopt the present Concept Paper with a view for further implementation on a voluntary and selective basis in accordance with national priorities.

Goals of the Concept Paper

The main goals of the Concept Paper on cooperation among the CICA Member States in the area of tourism are:

- 1) Mutual desire of the CICA Member States to strengthen and develop cooperation in the area of tourism on the basis of equality and mutual benefit for the development of economic and tourism potential in the region, and revitalize the economy and pursue more robust, greener and more balanced global development;
- 2) Peaceful co-existence of the peoples of the CICA states and convergence of their cultures through implementation of a plan to promote tourism in Asia;
- 3) Protection and respect of fundamental rights and freedoms of the peoples governed by the Charter of the United Nations Organization, the Global Ethical Code of Tourism approved by the General Assembly of World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the documents adopted within the CICA framework;
- 4) Implementation of coordinated measures in the area of cooperation on international tourism;
- 5) Implementation of joint efforts on mutual popularization of tourism resources, preservation of cultural and historical, natural and climatic features of the CICA Member States, promotion of the development of green tourism;
- 6) Assisting to establish mutually beneficial partnership relations among national tourism administrations of the CICA Member States;
- 7) Creating favorable environment for tourism exchange among the CICA Member States, as well as aspiration to promoting mutual recognition of standards on organization of tourist service and building statistic systems;

- 8) Striving for the development of sustainable tourism among CICA Member States.

Principles of the Concept Paper

Confidence building measures on cooperation in the area of tourism will be implemented by holding consultations and achieving a consensus for adoption relevant decisions in accordance with the Declaration of Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States, the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and the Cooperative Approach for the Implementation of CICA CBMs. Moreover, cooperation among CICA Member States in the field of tourism shall be based on relevant global standards developed by the UN World Tourism Organization and in full compliance with the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

Basic directions and mechanisms of cooperation

Within the framework of implementation of confidence building measures among the CICA Member States for interaction in the area of international tourism, the following directions and mechanisms of cooperation will constitute priorities:

- 1) Increasing environmental efficiency in tourism in the CICA territory;
- 2) Development and implementation of joint initiatives and projects on sustainable tourism;
- 3) Carrying out activities to continuously improve the environmental culture of the local population of the CICA Member States.

In the area of development of tourism exchange

- 1) Considering the issue of every possible assistance to increase tourist flows among the CICA Member States, and jointly promote the national tourist products to the world markets;
- 2) Rendering every assistance to establish direct business contacts among national tourist administrations and tour operators for

- adoption of joint sectorial programs within the CICA framework;
- 3) Encouraging the adoption of relevant bilateral and multilateral agreements on cooperation in the area of tourism among CICA Member States;
 - 4) Organizing specialized tourist routes and disseminating knowledge and information on the divergent cultures of peoples in the CICA region with a view to promote tolerance and understanding.
 - 5) Encouraging dialogue between the CICA Member States in order to promote sustainable and responsible tourism development and to adopt green growth strategies.

In the area of promotion of national tourist product

- 1) Exchange expertise and information among the CICA Member States on the best practices in the area of marketing and promotion of national tourist products;
- 2) Exchange statistics, information, advertising and other materials in the area of tourism;
- 3) Encourage specialists and journalists operating in the area of tourism to create expert groups among them to discuss the issues of common interest in the CICA region.
- 4) Assist in the participation of tourist organizations of the CICA Member States in the main international tourist exhibitions, which are organized with their support, with a view to increase mutual tourist exchange.
- 5) Use capabilities of the mass media and the Internet/portals and promote the development of digital economy in tourism for projecting tourist potential of the CICA states.

In the area of training of professional personnel

Assist exchange of information and expertise in the area of training of professional personnel for tourism industry among the CICA Member States and arrange capacity building programs when necessary.

In the area of legislation

Exchange information regarding sectorial legislative acts in the sphere of tourism, including systems of technical regulations, classification, attestation and standardization, as well as in the area of control (monitoring) over tourist service quality. Exploring the simplification of visa formalities for citizens of the CICA Members States, traveling for tourist purposes in the region.

In the area of capital investments

- 1) Exchange information concerning investment opportunities in the CICA Member States including inter alia, in the area of construction of tourism infrastructure;
- 2) Assist in development of cooperation among the tourist organizations of the CICA Member States which carry out capital investments in the tourism industry;

Safety provision

- 1) Coordination of actions of authorized bodies in the field of tourism to ensure safe and secure tourism and to exchange information regarding risk factors and misuse of tourism;
- 2) Identification of emergency communication channels for alerting tourists and persons engaged in tourist activities;
- 3) Improvement of the safety tourists (excursionists) movement along routes associated with an increased risk to life and health, causing damage to their property;

- 4) Exchange of experience on the utility and improvement of systems for informing about the threat to the safety of tourists (excursionists) in the country of temporary stay;
- 5) Exchange of information regarding the safety of tourists

Conclusion

Implementation of the present Concept Paper provides ground for adoption of an Action Plan which will reflect concrete events, including issues of financial and other conditions of its implementation.