



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

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

№DOC/306

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 5 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 the recommendations of the Special Working Group (SWG) meeting of 12 March 2024 and the draft Memorandum of Establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States as finalized by the SWG for approval by the Senior Officials Committee meeting on 14 March 2024.

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

Astana, 11 March 2024



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



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*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 5 лл.*

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь препроводить рекомендации заседания Специальной рабочей группы (СРГ), состоявшегося 12 марта 2024 года, а также проект Меморандума о создании Партнерской сети ведущих университетов государств-членов СВМДА, согласованный СРГ для утверждения на заседании Комитета старших должностных лиц 14 марта 2024 года.

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

город Астана, 11 марта 2024 г.



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

Қосымша:
аталған,
5 п.

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (Азия Кеңесінің) Хатшылығы Азия Кеңесіне мүше мемлекеттерге өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіре отырып, 2024 жылғы 12 наурызда өткен Арнаулы жұмыс тобы (АЖТ) отырысының ұсынымдарын және 2024 жылғы 14 наурызда Аға лауазымды тұлғалар комитетінің отырысында бекіту үшін АЖТ пысықтаған Азия Кеңесіне мүше мемлекеттер Жетекші университеттерінің серіктестік желісін құру жөніндегі меморандум жобасын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

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

Астана қаласы, 2024 жылғы 11 наурыз

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



Secretariat

RECOMMENDATIONS
of the Special Working Group meeting on 12 March 2024

The Special Working Group (SWG) at its online meeting held on 12 March 2024 recommended the following:

1. The SWG recommended to the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) that it approve the draft Memorandum of Establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States for its adoption by the CICA Ministerial Council.
2. The SWG recommended to the SOC that it agree to publish national documents on volunteerism on the CICA website on the basis of consensus, by providing all Member States a four-week-long period to review each national document and the opportunity to request the submitting country to adjust the content of the document, to limit the access to the document on the CICA website only to the Member States, or to withdraw the document from the CICA website.
3. The SWG considered the draft annual action plan of the CICA Think Tank Forum for 2024 and invited Member States to provide comments until 31 March 2024.
4. The SWG took note of the proposal to establish partnership relations between CICA and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and invited Member States to provide comments until 31 March 2024.
5. The SWG recommended to the SOC that it approve establishing partnership relations between CICA and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP).



Chairmanship of Kazakhstan

**MEMORANDUM OF ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE PARTNERSHIP NETWORK OF LEADING UNIVERSITIES OF THE
MEMBER STATES OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

We, the representatives of higher education organizations of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

- *aiming* at strengthening partnership between higher education systems, universities and academic communities of the CICA Member States,
- *recognizing* the strategic importance of cooperation in the field of higher education, research and cultural exchange,

have decided to join a CICA partnership network and have come to an understanding on the following:

1.

The CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU) consists of leading universities of CICA Member States participating on a voluntary basis.

This Memorandum of Establishment referred as MoE hereinafter sets the objectives, areas and forms of cooperation of the universities of CICA Member States, which have joined the PNLU.

The education institutions which have joined to this MoE will be referred as Members of the PNLU.

This MoE is open to accession for higher education institutions of all CICA Member States. Joining is carried out by written notification to the CICA Secretariat through diplomatic channels.

The PNLU Members will act on the basis of the legislation of the CICA Member States.

This MoE is not a treaty within the meaning of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties of May 23, 1969 and does not create benefits and commitments for the CICA Member States regulated by international law.

2.

The activities of the PNLU are based on the principles of pursuing common objectives and interests of its Members, openness, equality and trust, independence and autonomy, practical focus on development of education systems, close interaction with research centers, and flexibility in choosing forms and mechanisms of cooperation.

3.

The areas of cooperation within the PNLU are based on the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and other relevant areas decided in writing among the PNLU Members on the basis of consensus.

4.

The objectives of the PNLU are:

- expansion of cooperation of the CICA Member States in the human dimension towards strengthening peace, security, stability and prosperity in Asia;
- encouraging exchange among the PNLU Members, to promote scientific cooperation and academic exchange of students and faculty members;
- development of regional academic mobility of students, faculty members, scientists in the CICA region;
- introduction and implementation of scholarship programmes within the framework of joint educational programmes;
- organization and implementation of joint scientific, research and educational activities, events, programmes and projects.

5.

Structure and forms of cooperation include, but are not limited to:

- implementation of joint educational programmes, academic mobility, research projects and exchange programmes for teaching staff and students of PNLU Members;
- short-term training (full-time training for a period from 2 weeks to 1 semester, internships, advanced training courses, guest lectures by faculty members, experts and scientists);
- long-term training (full-time master's degree training within the "1+1" scheme: 1 year/semester at a local university, 1 year/semester at a partner university; joint thesis defense; issuance of two diplomas according to national laws of the Member States);
- joint events (conferences, scientific and research projects, symposia, workshops, etc.);
- discussion on harmonization of mechanisms for recognition and equivalence of educational documents among Members of the CICA PNLU;
- conducting other activities under strategic priorities of the PNLU determined by its Members;
- preparation and publication of the annual report of the PNLU with conclusions and proposals for the relevant departments of the CICA Member States;
- each PNLU Member will strive to provide annually educational grants for students from CICA Member States.

6.

The PNLU activities will be governed by the Coordination Council composed of:

- a PNLU Member assigned by the CICA Chairmanship and approved by the CICA Senior Officials Committee as Chair of the Coordination Council for a two-year term;
- PNLU Members assigned by the CICA Member States coordinating and co-ordinating implementation of confidence building measures in the human dimension;
- a representative of the CICA Secretariat.

The PNLU Coordination Council will plan, coordinate and review PNLU activities and will annually report to the CICA Senior Officials Committee.

The PNLU Coordination Council will hold its meetings in conjunction with the Regular meeting of the PNLU Members or more often as necessary.

7.

Regular meetings of the PNLU Members will be held not less than once a year and convened by the Chair of the PNLU Coordination Council.

Additional meetings of the PNLU Members may be convened at the initiative of any PNLU Member in consultation with the PNLU Coordination Council.

Organizational costs associated with the holding of PNLU meetings will be borne by the initiator and/or host of the meeting, international travel expenses of meeting participants will be borne by the sending PNLU Members.

8.

The date of approval of this MoE by the CICA Ministerial Council will be considered as the date of the establishment of the PNLU and opening it for accession of higher education institutions of the CICA Member States.

Any Member may discontinue its membership in the PNLU by a written notification to the CICA Secretariat through diplomatic channels. Unilateral discontinuation of the application of this MoE will be without prejudice to the completion of that Member's ongoing activities under this MoE, unless otherwise decided in writing with other PNLU Members participating in these activities.