

Brief concept paper of the Sixth Plenary Session of the Business Council and the Eighth Business Forum of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

(13 November 2023, Trading Hall of Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), Mangilik El, 55/18, C3.4, Astana, Kazakhstan)

Aims and objectives:

- Discussing challenges and opportunities of doing business in the fields of renewable energy, food security and green finance.
- Discussing the ways of enhancing cooperation between small and medium enterprises in the CICA space.
- Creating a network among CICA Member States for continuous exchange of information on good practices and developments on the proposed matters.
- Contributing to the reinvigoration of international economic cooperation.
- Exploring avenues of collaboration with other CICA bodies (Think Tank Forum, etc.).

Who would benefit?

Small and medium enterprises will be better equipped to work in the fields of renewal energy, food security and green finance by generating new ideas and sharing best practices during the interactive discussion.

What is CICA Business Council?

The CICA Business Council is an advisory body operating within the economic dimension of CICA to promote cooperation among the Member States in the field of SMEs. The CICA Business Council consists of three members from each of the 28 CICA Member States, two of which represent business communities, while the third one performs on behalf of a national state body responsible for the development of SMEs. The Business Council activity is supervised by the Chairman of the Board representing the CICA Chairmanship. At the moment, Chairman of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan Mr R.Batalov chairs the Business Council, his deputies from Russia, Thailand and Türkiye provide him with every assistance. The CICA Secretariat coordinates all the activities related to the above-mentioned CICA events, including the development of programme and maintaining correspondence with participants. It is expected that the Business Council's session will be followed by the Business Forum.

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan H.E. Nazira Nurbayeva will open the event in his capacity as CICA Chairman.

Programme

The Business Council and the Business Forum activities will be focused on the prospects of cooperation of the CICA Member States in renewable energy, food security and green finance. The presentations of the Business Council and the Business Forum participants will highlight the national competitive advantages and business development opportunities. The proposals to establish joint ventures and simplify the business environment will be on the table as well.

The CICA Business Council is expected to take note that the CICA Secretary General, as decided by the CICA Business Council Board, has requested the CICA Think Tank Forum to:

- Conduct research on “National approaches and incentives used by the CICA Member States to support small and medium enterprises” and hold a related seminar in 2024 with the participation of members of the CICA Business Council;
- Conduct research on “Involvement of women in small and medium enterprises in the CICA region with a focus on the challenges they face and the opportunities available to expand their participation and achieve success” and prepare a related progress report at the Seventh Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council in 2024.

The Sixth Plenary Session will be followed by the Eighth Business Forum, during which investment projects from CICA Member States will be presented. We invite all interested businesses to showcase their projects and capture the focus of the attending business communities.

Guests

It is proposed that the following guests be invited as speakers: Islamic Organization for Food Security, Eurasian Development Bank, and UN Women in Kazakhstan, UNESCAP, and UNESCWA.

Other organizational matters

There will be an opportunity to hold business-to-business and government-to-business meetings, considering that the Business Council and the Business Forum will be attended by business circles and government bodies of Member States. All participants of the events will bear their own expenses in respect of their accommodation and meals.

The CICA Secretariat will provide simultaneous English/Russian interpretation during the session of the Business Council and the Business Forum.

The focal points for the event are manager of the Chamber of International Commerce of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan "Atameken" Ms Tolganai Umurzakova: t2011290433@gmail.com, cell phone +7 (747) 321 62 22, and Senior Officer of the CICA Secretariat Ms Akmaral Kinzhebayeva: a.kinzhebayeva@s-cica.org, (WhatsApp) +7 (705) 423 81 00, www.s-cica.org