



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

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

№SUM/1625

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 herewith the Report of the CICA Secretary General on Achievements of CICA and Activities of its Secretariat for the Period 2022-2026.

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 25 p.*

The Report is circulated for the kind attention of the Member States in advance of the Seventh CICA Summit to be held in Baku on 15 October 2026.

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

Astana, 21 September 2026



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



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Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь препроводить Доклад Генерального секретаря СВМДА о достижениях СВМДА и деятельности его Секретариата за период 2022-2026 годов.

*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 25 л.*

Доклад распространяется для сведения государств-членов в преддверии седьмого Саммита СВМДА, который состоится в г. Баку 15 октября 2026 года.

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

город Астана, 21 сентября 2026 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 білдіре отырып, 2022-2026 жылдар кезеңіндегі Азия Кеңесінің жетістіктері мен оның Хатшылығының қызметі туралы Азия Кеңесі Бас хатшысының баяндамасын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

Қосымша:
аталған,
25 п.

Аталған баяндама 2026 жылғы 15 қазанда Баку қаласында өтетін Азия Кеңесінің жетінші Саммитінің қарсаңында мүше мемлекеттердің назарына ұсынылып отыр.

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

Астана қаласы, 2026 жылғы 21 қыркүйек

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



CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA

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21 September 2026

СОВЕЩАНИЕ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ И
МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ

Distr: Member States only

Secretariat

REPORT
of the CICA Secretary General on
Achievements of CICA and Activities of its Secretariat
for the Period 2022-2026

1. Introduction

Prepared ahead of the Seventh CICA Summit, this report presents key achievements of CICA since the Sixth CICA Summit held in Astana in October 2022, with particular emphasis on the implementation of decisions adopted by its governing bodies and the priorities pursued under the successive Chairmanships of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. It also provides an account of the Secretariat's activities in support of these processes.

The report covers CICA's transformation; the work of its governing and working bodies; the implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs); the development of its institutional and advisory mechanisms; progress towards the entry into force of the CICA Convention on Privileges and Immunities; the Secretariat's operational activities; and public diplomacy and media outreach.

2. CICA transformation

Since the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana in October 2022, the main focus has been placed on the implementation of the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation (AST), which launched *“the structured, inclusive and transparent negotiations process of gradual, incremental and consensus-based transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization”*.

In accordance with the Summit mandate, the Kazakh Chairmanship, with the assistance of the Secretary General and in close consultation with Member States, developed the Road Map for CICA Transformation (RMT), which was endorsed by the Ministerial Council on 21 September 2023.

In implementation of the relevant provisions of the AST, the Secretariat has provided continuous substantive and organizational support to the Kazakh and Azerbaijani Chairmanships and Member States in advancing the transformation agenda and implementing the respective clusters of the RMT. The Secretary General held extensive consultations with Member States, including during his visits to capitals and bilateral meetings with CICA Heads of State or Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and senior officials, providing an important channel for collecting the views of Member States, facilitating dialogue and supporting the search for common ground on key issues of the transformation process.

Cluster 1 of the RMT: “Elaborating a charter”. The Kazakh Chairmanship, with support of the Secretariat and drawing on the experience and constituent instruments of major global and regional international organizations, developed the initial draft Charter, laying the substantive basis for subsequent negotiations among Member States.

Following its assumption of the Chairmanship in December 2024, Azerbaijan identified the Charter as one of its priorities and continued advancing negotiations among Member States. Numerous meetings of the Special Working Group (SWG) and consultations at the level of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) have since been devoted to the draft Charter. By mid-2025, the first reading of the draft was completed, allowing Member States to present their positions and discuss its provisions. On 25 September 2025, at the Ministerial Council meeting in New York, the Azerbaijani Chairmanship informed Member States of the progress made in the negotiations on the draft Charter. Work intensified in 2026, with further meetings of the SWG and SOC focusing on key provisions and outstanding issues and seeking mutually acceptable approaches.

Cluster 2 of the RMT: “Improving current modalities of implementation of CICA confidence building measures until completion of the transformation process and exploring focus areas of our cooperation within the future organization”. Following substantive discussions among Member States, the new Modalities of Implementation of CICA CBMs were adopted by the Ministerial Council on 17 December 2024.

The Modalities replaced the respective provisions of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs, strengthened the institutional framework for practical cooperation and entrusted the Secretariat with enhanced analytical and expert functions in the field of CBMs, including support for assessing their implementation and facilitating coordination among Member States.

Work under this cluster has also been supported through the continued development of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs as the principal framework defining areas of practical cooperation. Its updates, including the latest one adopted by the Ministerial Council in December 2024, have enabled CICA to respond to emerging priorities and interests of Member States.

Cluster 3 of the RMT: “Defining the international status of the Secretariat contracted personnel, including amendments to the Host Country Agreement”.

Significant progress was achieved under this cluster through amendments to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Secretariat of CICA on the Conditions of Stay of the Secretariat on the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan (*Host Country Agreement*).

The Secretariat actively participated in drafting the amendments and provided legal and substantive support to the Kazakh Chairmanship and the relevant host country authorities throughout the review process. Following approval by the Member States, the Protocol on Amendments to the Host Country Agreement was signed on 15 November 2024 and ratified by the Republic of Kazakhstan on 19 May 2025.

The amendments strengthened the international status of the Secretariat by extending relevant privileges and immunities to its contracted personnel and seconded staff from the host country. This contribution by Kazakhstan has significantly improved the institutional and legal conditions for the functioning of the Secretariat and advanced the objectives of Cluster 8 of the RMT aimed at strengthening and further internationalizing its human resources.

Cluster 4 of the RMT: “Updating the Rules of Procedure”. Pursuant to the mandate contained in the AST to submit proposals for amendments to the relevant CICA documents, the Secretariat prepared a comprehensive draft update of the CICA Rules of Procedure in 2024. The draft reflected the institutional decisions taken by the Sixth CICA Summit, the practice developed by CICA governing and working bodies over the preceding decade and the requirements arising from the transformation process.

The updated draft was presented to Member States and considered alongside the draft Charter. Following discussions among Member States, further consideration of the updated Rules of Procedure was deferred pending finalization of the work on the draft Charter.

3. CICA governing and working bodies and other consultative mechanisms

During the reporting period, CICA governing and working bodies continued to implement Summit and Ministerial Council decisions, advance the transformation process and prepare matters for consideration at the Seventh CICA Summit.

The Secretariat provided substantive, administrative and technical support for their meetings and consultations.

a. Ministerial Council

During the reporting period, the Ministerial Council convened three times.

The Informal Ministerial Council Meeting on 21 September 2023 endorsed the Road Map for CICA Transformation, adopted the Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development and appointed the next CICA Deputy Secretary General.

The Seventh Ministerial Council Meeting on 17 December 2024 resulted in the adoption of the Statement on the 25th Anniversary of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States, the Decision on Modalities of Implementation of CICA CBMs, the updated CICA Catalogue of CBMs and the Memorandum on the Establishment of the Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States.

The Informal Ministerial Council Meeting on 25 September 2025 approved the Regulations of the CICA Finance Summit and the Regulations of the CICA Women Council, thereby establishing the two new advisory bodies. It also adopted the Statement on the 80th Anniversary of Victory in the Second World War and the Statement on the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations.

b. Senior Officials Committee

Since the Sixth CICA Summit, the SOC has held 12 meetings: three in 2023, four in 2024, three in 2025 and two in 2026 (as at 21 September 2026).

In 2023, the SOC focused primarily on the elaboration and finalization of the RMT.

In 2024, its work centred on the implementation of the RMT, including consideration of the main elements of the draft CICA Charter, the update of the Rules of Procedure and other institutional matters.

In 2025, the SOC considered the priorities and initiatives of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship and matters related to CICA mechanisms and institutional development.

In 2026, the SOC increasingly focused on preparations for the Seventh CICA Summit, including consideration of the principal documents proposed for adoption: the draft Charter, the draft Baku Declaration and the draft CICA Statement on Cooperation in

the Field of Occupational Safety and Health, together with related institutional and administrative matters.

The SOC also conducted annual reviews of the implementation of CICA CBMs since 2022, completing the review cycle across all five dimensions in 2026.

c. Special Working Group

The SWG remained the principal working-level mechanism for considering and negotiating draft documents before their submission to the SOC and other governing bodies. The Member States held four SWG meetings in 2023, eight meetings over 14 working days in 2024, seven meetings over ten working days in 2025 and five meetings over fourteen working days in 2026 (as at 21 September 2026).

d. Other consultative mechanisms

In addition to the governing and working bodies, Member States conducted consultations and thematic expert meetings on specific issues related to the implementation of CICA priorities and initiatives.

In 2023, six thematic expert meetings were convened in support of the priorities and initiatives of the Kazakh Chairmanship, followed by seven in 2024. The Secretariat provided substantive expert advice and organizational assistance to the Chairmanship in its consultations with Member States.

In February and September 2024, the Kazakh Chairmanship held informal meetings with Ambassadors of CICA Member States accredited in Astana to brief them on the implementation of its priorities. In March 2025, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov met in Astana with the Ambassadors to present the priorities of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship. The Secretariat assisted in organizing these consultations.

4. Implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs)

During 2022-2026, Member States continued implementing CBMs across all five dimensions, building on the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures updated in 2021 and 2024, the Modalities of Implementation of CICA CBMs adopted in 2024, and the General Guidelines for Conducting Events on CBM Implementation approved in 2021.

Since 2021, Member States have started actively updating concept papers in priority areas of CBMs. To date, concept papers have been renewed in eleven priority areas: new challenges and threats (general); security of and in the use of ICTs; SME development; tourism; transportation corridors; agriculture; finance; sustainable development; natural disaster management; environmental protection; and the Human Dimension. Seven concept papers remain under consideration in the following domains: the Military-Political Dimension; combating terrorism; combating illicit drugs; epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals; energy security; information technology; and trade and investment.

The annual review of CBM implementation continued throughout 2022–2026, covering the Economic Dimension on 15 June 2022, the New Challenges and Threats Dimension on 19 April 2023, the Human Dimension on 27 June 2024, the Environmental Dimension on 21 July 2025, and the Military-Political Dimension on 7 April 2026.

Between October 2022 and mid-September 2026, Member States conducted **94** CBM events: 41 under the Kazakh Chairmanship and 53 under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship.

The distribution of these events across the five CBM dimensions was as follows:

	10/2022	2023	2024	2025	9/2026	Total
Military-Political	-	1	1	1	-	3
New Challenges and Threats	4	5	1	9	7	26
Economic	3	4	9	13	5	34
Environmental	5	2	3	1	4	15
Human	-	2	2	6	6	16
Total	12	14	16	30	22	94

The Economic Dimension accounted for the largest number of events (34), followed by the New Challenges and Threats Dimension (26), Human Dimension (16), Environmental Dimension (15) and Military-Political Dimension (3). A further eight events are scheduled between mid-September and mid-October 2026.

a. Military-Political Dimension

During the reporting period, CBM activities in the Military-Political Dimension combined policy discussions with practical activities related to military transparency, professional dialogue and confidence building among Member States.

Between 2023 and 2025, Kazakhstan, in its capacity as dimension coordinator, organized annual international seminars for Member States, complementing them with visits to military educational institutions, peacekeeping training centres and defence industry facilities across the country in implementation of the relevant provisions of the Catalogue of CBMs. Delegations from Member States visited the Kazakhstan Peace Operations Centre, the National Defence University, defence-industrial enterprises and the Military College in Astana, providing opportunities for professional exchanges and confidence building.

The thematic focus of the seminars included cyber security, artificial intelligence, unmanned systems and mediation in post-conflict settlement. The 2025 seminar addressed mediation and capacity-building in conflict resolution, while the 2026 seminar is expected to address the implications of artificial intelligence for confidence and security measures in Asia.

b. New Challenges and Threats Dimension

Cooperation under the New Challenges and Threats Dimension continued across its five priority areas: new challenges and threats of a general nature; combating terrorism; security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs); combating illicit drugs; and epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals.

A major institutional milestone was the adoption of the CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2022.

Practical capacity-building and specialized training included seminars led by India on countering radicalization and the misuse of the Internet; activities coordinated by Russia and China on ICT security, cybercrime and digital forensics; and virtual training courses organized by Iran on harm reduction and the treatment of drug-use disorders. Türkiye has also continued to deliver sustained capacity-building assistance to law-enforcement agencies through the Turkish International Academy Against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC), covering financial crime investigation, open-source intelligence, anti-corruption, risk analysis and search techniques,

anti-smuggling and organized crime investigations, document fraud, and countering money laundering and terrorist financing. India's 2022 online session on the contribution of traditional and complementary medicine to mitigating the effects of COVID-19 further supported cooperation in public health.

c. Economic Dimension

During the reporting period, Member States implemented CBMs in the Economic Dimension across several areas, including transport connectivity, agriculture, SMEs, information technology, tourism, trade and investment.

Transport connectivity and logistics were addressed through a series of specialized events. Russia convened the CICA Conference on the Development of the Transport and Logistics Potential of the CICA Member States, entitled "Intermodal Transportation as a Factor in Ensuring the Economic Growth of the CICA Member States", in May 2025 on the margins of the XVI International Economic Forum "Russia – Islamic World: KazanForum". The Conference brought together government officials, policymakers and business representatives to discuss regional connectivity and economic cooperation.

The CICA Plenary Session entitled "Political Dialogue and Economic Connectivity as Foundations for Sustainable Development in the CICA Region" was held in June 2026 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, within the Second Meeting of the Termez Dialogue on Connectivity between Central and South Asia. Participants discussed the relationship between political dialogue, transport connectivity and sustainable development.

The CICA Conference of Heads of Ports, hosted by Azerbaijan in September 2026 in Baku, addressed critical maritime and multimodal logistics issues. Discussions covered modernizing port operations, cargo handling efficiency, multimodal connectivity, cybersecurity and safety, while establishing clear pathways toward green ports and sustainable logistics.

In the area of transport corridors, Egypt and Azerbaijan organized online events in November and December 2025, respectively. Egypt highlighted opportunities offered by the Suez Canal Economic Zone along one of the world's most important maritime routes, while Azerbaijan facilitated the exchange of experiences on the digitalization of transport corridors among CICA Member States, including challenges and approaches to the digitalization of international transit routes.

In agriculture, China organized seminars and training programmes between 2022 and 2024, followed by a workshop on food loss reduction in June 2026. Azerbaijan and Egypt contributed to exchanges on evidence-based agricultural management and sustainable food production in 2025.

Activities related to SME development, trade and investment included Thailand's seminar on women's contribution to SME development in August 2025 and a series of events organized by Azerbaijan in 2025–2026 on access to investment capital and e-commerce.

Tourism cooperation included meetings organized by Tajikistan in 2022 and training conducted by Thailand in 2023.

In information technology, Bangladesh organized an IT seminar in December 2024, while Azerbaijan hosted the Digital Transformation and Innovation Forum in December 2025.

d. Environmental Dimension

The first-ever high-level specialized CICA meeting in this domain was held online under the Kazakh Chairmanship: The Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues on 28 August 2024. The conference brought together Ministers of Environment and senior officials from across the region, concluding with a high-level statement committing to enhanced cooperation on climate action aligned with the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, biodiversity conservation, sustainable water management, pollution control and knowledge sharing on sustainable practices.

CBM activities in the Environmental Dimension were implemented under three priority areas: sustainable development, natural disaster management and environment protection. Main activities included Thailand's training programme on sustainable waste management in 2022, Bangladesh's webinar on disaster resilience and workshop on ecosystem restoration in 2023, and Thailand's training course on sustainable tourism based on the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model in 2024. A series of mining safety conferences and workshops organized by China in 2022, 2024 and 2026 and by Russia in 2024 and 2026 facilitated exchanges of experience on industrial safety regulation, risk prevention and mine safety, contributing to cooperation in the area of occupational safety and health.

Building on Azerbaijan's experience as President of UNFCCC COP29, activities during its Chairmanship advanced cross-dimensional synergies in environmental sustainability and green transition. Azerbaijan implemented the Circular Green Tourism project, including an online kick-off meeting in October 2025 and the concluding International Conference on Circular Green Tourism in CICA Member States held in June 2026 in Baku. The project resulted in a Circular Tourism Model and recommendations for further regional cooperation.

Azerbaijan's Small and Medium Business Development Agency (KOBIA) organized the CICA Webinar on “Policy and Practical Approaches for SMEs in Applying Green Economy Practices among CICA Member States” in February 2026.

CICA Member States initiated and hosted a number of major international environmental events and conferences, including UNFCCC COP29 (November 2024) and the Baku Water Week (September 2025) in Azerbaijan, International Conference on Glaciers' Preservation (May 2025) and 3rd and 4th High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” (June 2024 and May 2026) in Tajikistan, Regional Ecological Summit under the UN auspices (April 2026) in Kazakhstan, UNCCD COP17 (August 2026) in Mongolia, UNFCCC COP28 (November 2023), as well as the forthcoming UN Water Conference (December 2026) in the UAE.

The Secretariat contributed to these initiatives of Member States by assisting with the organization of CICA side events and panel sessions on the margins of these major events, such as Azerbaijan’s CICA side event within the COP29 entitled “Pathways to Sustainable Connectivity: Efforts of CICA, its Member States and Regional Organizations in Asia for Secure, Effective and Climate-Resilient Transportation Corridors” (November 2024), the Azerbaijani Chairmanship’s side event on Water Security and Climate Resilience in Dushanbe (May 2025), Kazakhstan’s high-level CICA meeting within RES in Astana (April 2026), Türkiye’s panel session within COP17 in Ulaanbaatar (August 2026).

e. Human Dimension

Cooperation within the Human Dimension has been carried out under the coordination of Uzbekistan, with India, Kazakhstan, China and the Kyrgyz Republic serving as co-coordinators. Over the reporting period, activities within this dimension covered volunteerism, youth engagement, partnership in higher education, women's empowerment and advancing people-to-people contacts.

At the Sixth CICA Summit, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed convening a Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders of CICA Countries. It was further advanced through the adoption of the Ministerial Council's Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development on 21 September 2023. In the same year, Kazakhstan, as co-coordinator of the dimension, organized the working session “Prospects of the Volunteering Development in CICA Countries” within the International Volunteer Forum, 20-21 July 2023, and China, as co-coordinator, organized the CICA Youth Development Forum, 31 August 2023.

In September 2024, Russia organized the CICA panel session “Asia in the Focus of International Friendship” on the margins of the IX International Youth Forum “Eurasia Global”.

The next major milestone was the first CICA Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders, hosted by Kazakhstan in Astana on 3–4 October 2024 under the auspices of the CICA Youth Council.

In December 2024, the Ministerial Council incorporated volunteerism into the Human Dimension of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs, following a series of initiatives undertaken by Member States.

The Second CICA Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders was subsequently organized in Baku on 13 November 2025, focusing on volunteerism's contribution to social cohesion, mutual trust and civic engagement.

Kazakhstan, in coordination with the CICA Secretariat and with support of the UN Volunteers, held a side-event on volunteerism on the margins of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York on 13-14 July 2026. The e-publication, *Review of Best Practices in Volunteerism in CICA Member States*, was launched on this occasion. A photo exhibition showcasing volunteer activities across Member States was also held at United Nations Headquarters.

These developments supported further cooperation in volunteerism and youth engagement.

Cooperation on vocational skills development was advanced through the CICA Skills Competition, themed “Trust & Skills, Craft our Future,” hosted by China in Guangzhou on 3 July 2026. The Competition brought together participants from 18 Member States and 5 Observer States, and was accompanied by the unveiling of the “Initiative

on CICA Worker Skills Exchange” by the China Workers' Center for International Exchange, aimed at fostering talent development and practical cooperation across the region.

5. CICA institutional and advisory architecture

During the reporting period, Member States continued to develop CICA's institutional and advisory architecture through the activities of existing bodies, the establishment of new mechanisms and their operationalization.

a. CICA Youth Council

The CICA Youth Council was established as an advisory body in 2014 to coordinate youth organizations, associations and movements of CICA Member States.

The Sixth Meeting of the CICA Youth Council was held in Samarkand on 12 October 2023, hosted by Uzbekistan, focusing on youth development, regional cooperation and the prevention of youth radicalization, including the role of media in this regard.

The Seventh Meeting was held in Astana on 3 October 2024, under the theme “The Importance of Volunteerism in Society: Discussion on the Role of Volunteerism in Promoting Sustainable Development in Asia”, as part of the First CICA Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders. Participants included officials responsible for youth policy and volunteering, representatives of youth organizations and active volunteers. The meeting adopted its Recommendations on the joint development of volunteerism within CICA, including the proposal to incorporate volunteerism into the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

The Eighth Meeting was held in Baku on 12 November 2025, hosted by Azerbaijan, under the theme “Youth Action for a Sustainable Future in the CICA Region”. The meeting adopted its Recommendations on strengthening youth mobility, innovation and digital skills, expanding youth exchange and volunteering programmes, increasing youth participation in regional and global forums, and applying artificial intelligence and emerging technologies for social good. The meeting was held alongside the Second Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders, the “SDGs in Action” side event and the CICA Youth Brainstorming Competition.

The Ninth Meeting was held in Baku on 26 June 2026 under the theme “Youth Engagement in Advancing Sustainable Urban Development”. Participants exchanged views on youth participation in developing safe, smart and sustainable cities and adopted their Recommendations aimed at enhancing youth engagement in this area. The meeting was accompanied by the CICA Youth Speech and Debate Competition and the RoboChallenge Youth Robotics Competition, held on 27 June 2026.

These meetings reflected the development of the Youth Council as a mechanism for youth engagement, addressing confidence building, sustainable development, connectivity, innovation and opportunities for youth participation in CICA activities.

b. CICA Business Council

The CICA Business Council connects business communities and relevant authorities of Member States to promote regional economic cooperation, with particular emphasis on SMEs. Its plenary sessions, held in conjunction with the CICA Business Forums, provide a practical platform for policy dialogue, exchange of best practices, as well as B2B and G2B interaction.

The Sixth Plenary Session and Eighth CICA Business Forum, held on 13 November 2023 in Astana, addressed food security, renewable energy and green finance. Discussions focused on sustainable financing, opportunities for SMEs in renewable energy, digital solutions for food security and strengthening regional business cooperation.

The Seventh Plenary Session and Ninth CICA Business Forum, held on 20 November 2024 in Astana, expanded the agenda to emerging economic priorities, including artificial intelligence for SMEs, cross-border e-commerce, logistics and infrastructure, women’s entrepreneurship and sustainable SME development. The meeting also promoted direct contacts among businesses, investors and government representatives across the CICA region.

The Eighth Plenary Session and Tenth CICA Business Forum were held on 20 May 2025 in Baku. The discussions focused on digitalization, green transition, women’s entrepreneurship, cross-border trade and e-commerce, industrial cooperation and SME participation in global value chains. The event further strengthened the practical orientation of the Business Council by promoting business networking and regional cooperation.

An important strategic initiative of the Business Council has been the development of the *SME Landscape in Asia: Interactive Guidebook*. The publication has subsequently been expanded by the CICA Secretariat to cover all CICA Member States, providing country profiles and practical information on SME ecosystems and contributing to greater awareness of business and investment opportunities across the CICA region.

c. CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF)

The CICA TTF provides a platform for intellectual exchange among leading think tanks and research institutions of Member States in support of CICA's broader objectives. In 2021, it was transformed into a permanent advisory body of CICA.

Since 2022, the TTF has continued to address key issues affecting regional security, sustainable development and CICA's institutional development.

The Tenth Meeting, held in Shanghai in November 2022, focused on “Sustainable Security in Asia in a Period of Turbulence and Transformation: Challenges and Vision”, during which food and energy security, green transformation, connectivity and prospects for strengthening regional cooperation were discussed.

The Eleventh Meeting, held in Xining, China, in August 2023, brought together scholars and diplomats from CICA Member States to discuss security and development challenges in Asia, as well as CICA's role and mission in promoting mutual understanding and mutually beneficial cooperation.

The Twelfth Meeting, held in Shanghai in October 2024, was devoted to “Asia's New Role in a Multipolarizing World”. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on changes in the international environment, strengthen mutual understanding among Member States and further enhance the role and mechanisms of the TTF.

The Thirteenth Meeting in September 2025 was the first annual meeting held outside China since the Forum's establishment. The TTF Chairmanship was transferred from the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies of China to the Indian Council of World Affairs. The Forum also featured a message from President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev.

A dedicated section for TTF analytical materials was established on the official CICA website with a view to developing a CICA knowledge repository.

d. CICA Council of Eminent Persons (CEP)

Established by the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting in October 2021, the CEP was designed to bring together prominent political figures, scholars and other internationally recognized individuals from CICA Member States, with a mandate to develop and provide high-level advice on a wide range of issues of interaction and development within CICA. While the CEP has not yet initiated its substantive work due to ongoing consultations regarding its composition, the Secretariat continues to work closely with Member States to achieve the consensus needed for its launch.

e. CICA Women Council

The establishment of the CICA Women Council provided a dedicated mechanism for cooperation among Member States on women's empowerment and gender equality within the Human Dimension. The Regulations of the CICA Women Council were adopted by the Ministerial Council on 25 September 2025.

The CICA Women Council was officially launched at its inaugural meeting in Baku in April 2026, where members adopted the Council's Recommendations on capacity-building and enhancing women's leadership in economic and public life. The meeting was held in conjunction with the international conference "Amplifying Women's Voices Across CICA for Sustainable Growth", focusing on female entrepreneurship, digitalization and leadership in environmental sustainability.

Following its launch, the Women Council initiated a structured programme of activities, including a specialized regional webinar on women's entrepreneurship and leadership. To promote a high-level dialogue in this domain, Azerbaijan organized a CICA side event titled "Women's Empowerment across CICA Member States" on the margins of the 70th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 2026.

f. CICA Finance Summit

The CICA Finance Summit was established as a dedicated mechanism for advancing financial cooperation among CICA Member States. Its Regulations, approved by the Ministerial Council in September 2025, provide a framework for cooperation in development financing, financial innovation, sustainable finance and cross-border investment.

Organized by the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), the inaugural meeting of the CICA Finance Summit was held in Astana on 8 September 2026 under the theme “Strengthening Financial Cooperation for Sustainable Growth in the CICA Region”. The meeting focused on enhancing regional financial cooperation, mobilizing investment, promoting sustainable and innovative financial solutions and strengthening cross-border financial connectivity. As a key outcome, participants adopted the *Outcome Document of the First Meeting of the CICA Finance Summit*, which identified priority areas for further cooperation.

g. CICA Partnership Network of Leading Universities (PNLU)

The PNLU was established to support practical regional cooperation in education, science and innovation within the Human Dimension. The Memorandum on the Establishment of the PNLU was adopted by the Ministerial Council in December 2024. The Network has since expanded to include 182 universities from 13 CICA Member States.

ADA University (Azerbaijan) chairs the PNLU Coordination Council, whose other members are Lanzhou University (China), the University of Delhi (India), L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University (Kazakhstan), Kyrgyz National University named after Jusup Balasagyn (Kyrgyzstan) and Bukhara State Medical Institute named after Abu Ali Ibn Sino (Uzbekistan).

In December 2025, ADA University hosted the international conference “The Role of Universities in Green Energy and Sustainability”, bringing together representatives of universities, research institutions, governments and expert communities from across the CICA region. The conference provided a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices on green energy, sustainability and climate resilience, while strengthening cooperation between academia and policymakers.

The Network is also expanding its activities to address emerging priorities at the intersection of digitalization, research and policymaking. ADA University is scheduled to organize a training programme entitled “Digitalization and Research Capacity Building Training for Researchers and Early-Career Policy Professionals” in Baku from 29 September to 3 October 2026. The programme is intended to strengthen participants’ research and digital capacities and promote academic-policy dialogue and cooperation among universities and research institutions of CICA Member States.

h. CICA Fund

The CICA Fund, established by the Sixth CICA Summit in 2022 as a special mechanism to identify and facilitate project activities and mobilize voluntary funding, was operationalized in August 2024. The mechanism includes the Project Review Committee – a working body consisting of representatives of Member States for review and approval of project proposals and pledges from external donors.

In 2024, Iraq became the first Member State to voluntarily contribute to the CICA Fund. Bangladesh also contributed to the Fund in 2026.

The first CICA Fund project, entitled “Advancing Wheat Cultivation for Sustainable Development in Central Afghanistan”, was approved on 7 March 2025. Proposed by Kazakhstan and co-funded by the CICA Fund, the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), it supported 300 Afghan farmers in earthquake-affected areas, enhancing food security and resilience.

Another CICA Fund project, entitled “Empowering Youth of CICA Member States for Climate Action through Nature-based Solutions (NbS): Building Climate Resilient Society through Enhanced Regional Cooperation”, proposed by Bangladesh, was approved on 30 April 2026 and is currently being implemented. The project aims to combine technology, indigenous knowledge and community engagement through a regional climate hackathon focused on youth-led solutions to climate challenges.

As part of the celebrations marking the 20th Anniversary of the Secretariat, a presentation of the CICA Fund was held at the CICA Headquarters on 17 September 2026. The event highlighted the Fund’s mandate, structure and achievements, encouraged financial contributions and project proposals, and sought to strengthen partnerships with Member States, Observer States, development assistance agencies and other stakeholders.

6. Ratification of the CICA Convention on Privileges and Immunities

The Secretariat has continued its efforts to facilitate the early entry into force of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members of CICA.

To date, 13 Member States have ratified the Convention: Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, India, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Türkiye. During the reporting period, six Member States – Bangladesh, China, Jordan, Pakistan, Palestine and Tajikistan – deposited their instruments of ratification. Only one additional ratification is now required for the Convention to enter into force.

The Secretariat, as the depositary of the Convention, has continuously encouraged the Member States concerned to complete the necessary national procedures and has regularly provided relevant information and reminders to facilitate this process. The Secretary General has also actively raised the issue in his bilateral consultations with Member States. The Secretariat will continue these efforts with a view to achieving the early entry into force of the Convention, which would constitute an important milestone in strengthening the institutional and legal foundations of CICA.

7. CICA Secretariat and its operational activities

Throughout the reporting period, the Secretariat supported the implementation of the mandates and priorities of the Kazakh and Azerbaijani Chairmanships, as well as the decisions of CICA governing bodies, in close coordination with Member States.

The Secretariat provided substantive, organizational, administrative and technical support for meetings and events; assisted in the implementation of CBMs and other priority areas, and prepared analytical studies, reports, thematic materials and draft documents at the request of the Chairmanships and Member States.

a. Permanent CICA Headquarters in Astana

The new permanent CICA Headquarters in Astana was officially inaugurated on 2 July 2025 by President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Initiated and funded by Kazakhstan, the construction of the Headquarters took into account environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles. The building provides modern facilities for CICA meetings and the Secretariat's operations, including a fully equipped multifunctional conference hall and modern communications infrastructure.

The Headquarters also reflects the cultural diversity of CICA Member States. Azerbaijan, China, India, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Palestine, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan

contributed artworks, architectural elements and other cultural artefacts, which are displayed throughout the building and in the adjacent Park of Asia.

The Headquarters welcomed President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Thongloun Sisoulith on 4 September 2026. During his visit, the President expressed appreciation for CICA's activities and conveyed his country's aspiration to become a full Member State. The occasion provided an opportunity to strengthen CICA's engagement with the Lao PDR and Southeast Asia.

The Headquarters also hosted visits by Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan Farid Gayibov on 29 July 2026; Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Maxim Ryzhenkov on 28 May 2026; Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Legal and International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran Kazem Gharibabadi on 15 January 2026; and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus Pavel Utyupin on 16 September 2025. These visits provided opportunities for exchanges on CICA activities and cooperation with the respective countries.

b. External relations and cooperation with international and regional organizations

The Secretariat supported the Kazakh and Azerbaijani Chairmanships in maintaining and developing CICA's cooperation with international and regional organizations and other external partners through institutional engagement, high-level representation and joint activities.

Cooperation with the United Nations continued through institutional engagement and participation in UN meetings and initiatives. At the request of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, the CICA Secretariat provided input to the draft *New Agenda for Peace* in January 2023. The Secretary General represented CICA at sessions of the UN General Assembly, including the UN-CICA side event entitled "The United Nations, CICA and Regional Organizations: Global Partnership in Support of the SDGs", held in New York in September 2023, and addressed the Summit of the Future in September 2024. The Secretary General also participated in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York in July 2024 and July 2026 and the Second World Summit for Social Development in Doha in November 2025.

Engagement with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) addressed areas of common interest, including transnational organized crime, illicit drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, illegal migration and terrorism. The Secretary General also addressed the 115th session of the IOM Council in Geneva in November 2024.

In 2024, the SOC approved the establishment of partnership relations with two additional UN entities: the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). Under the Azerbaijani Chairmanship, consultations among Member States continued on a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the CICA Secretariat and the UNOCT.

Cooperation with ESCAP included the Secretary General's participation in its 79th, 80th and 81st sessions in Bangkok in 2023, 2024 and 2025, respectively, and a joint event entitled "Leveraging Digital Innovation for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific – the Role of Regional Partnerships", held in April 2024. In 2026, he also participated in the Tenth North and Central Asia Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Engagement with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) included the Secretariat's participation in the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development, held in Beirut in March 2024.

CICA also maintained cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and its Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic States (TURKPA) and the League of Arab States (LAS).

Cooperation with the SCO continued pursuant to the 2014 Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations' secretariats. It included a joint seminar on combating cybercrime, held in November 2022, and mutual participation in relevant meetings and events, including those of SCO RATS. The Secretary General visited the SCO Secretariat in Beijing in 2023 and 2024 and maintained dialogue with successive SCO Secretaries General Zhang Ming and Nurlan Yermekbayev on inter-secretariat cooperation and implementation of the Memorandum. The Secretary General participated in SCO and SCO+ meetings held in Samarkand in September 2022, online in July 2023, in Astana in July 2024, in Tianjin in September 2025 and in Bishkek in September 2026. He also participated in the International Conference

“Central Asia – the Core of the SCO: a Space of Peace and Joint Development” in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in June 2026.

The Secretary General addressed the 26th, 27th and 29th meetings of the ECO Council of Ministers in 2023 and 2025 and represented CICA at the ECO Summit held in Khankendi, Azerbaijan, in 2025.

The Secretary General attended plenary sessions of the TURKPA in Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, in 2022; Ankara, Türkiye, in 2023; Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2024; and Astana, Kazakhstan, in 2025. Cooperation with TURKPA was further discussed during the visit of its Secretary General, Ramil Hasan, to the CICA Secretariat in Astana on 17 October 2025. The Secretary General also participated in the Fifteenth Plenary Session of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA), held in Baku on 19–20 February 2025.

Cooperation with the LAS included consultations with LAS Assistant Secretary-General Hossam Zaki on the margins of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in March 2024 and a meeting of the Secretary General with LAS Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul Gheit during his visit to the League’s Headquarters in Cairo in April 2026. The discussions addressed opportunities for cooperation between the two organizations and regional issues of common interest.

CICA also maintained dialogue with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The Secretary General met with OSCE Secretary General Helga Schmid during a visit to Vienna in 2022 and with her successor, Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, during the Helsinki+50 Conference in Finland in 2025 and on the margins of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Türkiye in 2025 and 2026.

A dialogue was established with the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In January 2026, the Secretary General met with ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn in Jakarta, marking the first visit by a CICA Secretary General to the ASEAN Headquarters.

The Secretary General continued to represent CICA at major international forums, including the Antalya Diplomacy Forum (2022, 2024–2026), the Minsk International Conference on Eurasian Security (2023–2025), the Beijing Xiangshan Forum (2023–2024), the Eurasian Economic Forum (2023, 2025 and 2026), the Boao Forum for Asia (2024–2026) and the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi (2024–2026).

Other engagements included a high-level meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, China, in 2023, followed by the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia, in 2024.

In 2025, the Secretary General participated in the Third Istanbul Human Resources Forum in Türkiye; KazanForum in Russia; the Tehran Dialogue Forum in Iran; and the Sustainability Dialogue entitled “Climate Action: Billions of Trees” in Mongolia. He also attended the Astana International Forum and the Digital Bridge international forum in Kazakhstan; the Fergana Peace Forum in Uzbekistan; the Manama Dialogue in Bahrain; and the International Forum on the International Year of Peace and Trust in Turkmenistan.

In 2026, the Secretary General participated in the World Urban Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan, and the Third International Conference on Countering Crimes Committed Using Information and Communication Technologies in St. Petersburg, Russia.

8. CICA visibility and public diplomacy

During the reporting period, CICA public diplomacy activities included cultural initiatives, engagement with the diplomatic and expert communities, volunteerism and sports events. The Secretariat coordinated these activities with support and participation of Member States and their diplomatic missions, complementing CICA’s formal intergovernmental processes.

a. 20th Anniversary of the Secretariat

The 20th Anniversary of the CICA Secretariat, commemorated on 17 June 2026, provided an occasion for engagement with Member States, regional organizations and the diplomatic community. The commemorative programme included the Roundtable of Executive Structures of Regional Organizations in Asia, which addressed cooperation among regional organizations in responding to shared security and development challenges. The Roundtable highlighted CICA’s bridging role between global and regional frameworks, providing an inclusive platform for dialogue and facilitating cooperation among organizations with complementary mandates. Participants emphasized the need for closer coordination among their executive structures and supported regular exchanges to identify opportunities for practical joint action.

The anniversary programme included a high-level reception in Astana attended by representatives of Member States, the diplomatic corps and senior officials of Kazakhstan. It also featured a photo exhibition and a showcase of Member States' national cuisines.

The Secretariat also launched the CICA Talks lecture series as a platform for dialogue with the expert and diplomatic community. Two lectures were held during the reporting period, providing an additional format for engagement beyond formal institutional processes.

b. Flagship initiatives

First published in English and Russian in 2022 to mark CICA's 30th Anniversary, *The Tales of Asia* was subsequently published in Arabic and Kazakh in 2025 and in Chinese and Azerbaijani in 2026, with support of Member States. The initiative promotes multilingualism in CICA and projects the diverse cultural heritage of Member States.

To commemorate key institutional milestones, the Secretariat published *In Pursuit of Peace: Evolution and Compilation of Documents*, marking the 25th Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among CICA Member States. The 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the Secretariat was marked by the presentation of the commemorative book *Two Decades of the CICA Secretariat* on 17 June 2026.

Launched in Astana in June 2021, the CICA Alley initiative combined environmental sustainability with confidence building through the initial planting of thirty trees in the Presidential Park. Designed for expansion to capitals of other CICA Member States, the initiative achieved a major milestone on 27 February 2026 in Thailand, when Chulalongkorn University, with the Secretariat's assistance, established the first CICA Alley outside Kazakhstan in Bangkok's Centenary Park, demonstrating Member States' strong commitment to the CICA environmental agenda.

Youth outreach included essay competitions on CICA-related topics. The 2024 competition, entitled "The Future of Asia We Want: Ideas for the CICA Region", attracted 31 essays from eight Member States. In 2025, Azerbaijan, with support of the Secretariat, organized a competition on "Youth as Catalysts for Peace, Cooperation and Sustainable Development in the CICA Region", which received more than 370 submissions from young people across Member States. The competitions

provided opportunities for young people to express their perspectives on regional cooperation, peace and sustainable development.

c. Cultural and public diplomacy activities

Cultural, charitable and sports activities, including the Spring Charity Bazaar, CICA football tournaments, ski tours and bicycle tours, provided opportunities for informal interaction among members of the diplomatic community in Astana. Organized with support and participation of diplomatic missions of Member States and other countries, these activities complemented CICA's formal diplomatic engagement.

9. Media outreach

During the reporting period, the Secretariat developed CICA's communication and public outreach activities through upgrades to the official website, expanded use of social media and cooperation with national news agencies and media outlets of Member States.

The official website was upgraded to improve access to information on CICA's activities and institutional processes. The Secretariat also produced multimedia content, infographics and regular news updates for dissemination through its digital platforms.

Cooperation with national news agencies and media outlets of Member States included interviews with the Secretary General and coverage of CICA meetings and activities.

The Secretariat produced informational materials in digital and print formats, including the quarterly digital digest *Voice of Asia*, brochures on CICA's activities and advisory bodies, and specialized publications such as the *SME Landscape in Asia: Interactive Guidebook* and the *Review of Best Practices in Volunteerism in CICA Member States*.