



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

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

№ MIN/OI/1328

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 forward herewith the draft of the Chair's summary of the CICA Informal Ministerial Meeting held on 21 September 2022 in New York for comments and suggestions from Member States to be received by 10 November 2022.

*Enclosure:
as stated, on 20 p.*

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

Astana, 21 October 2022



**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 проект резюме Председателя по итогам Неформальной министерской встречи СВМДА, состоявшейся 21 сентября 2022 года для получения комментариев и предложений государств-членов до 10 ноября 2022 года.

*Приложение:
упомянутое, на 20 л.*

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

город Астана, 21 октября 2022 года



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

*Қосымша:
аталған, 20 п.*

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (АӨСШК) Хатшылығы АӨСШК мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіре отырып, 2022 жылғы 21 қыркүйекте Нью-Йорк қаласында өткен Азия Кеңесі Министрлерінің бейресми кездесуі бойынша Төраға түйіндемелерінің жобасын мүше мемлекеттердің ескертулері мен ұсыныстарын 2022 жылғы 10 қарашаға дейін алу үшін жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

Хатшылық осы мүмкіндікті пайдалана отырып, АӨСШК мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын тағы да растайды.

Астана қаласы, 2022 жылғы 21 қазан

**АЗИЯДАҒЫ ӨЗАРА ІС-ҚИМЫЛ ЖӘНЕ
СЕНІМ ШАРАЛАРЫ КЕҢЕСІНІҢ МҮШЕ
МЕМЛЕКЕТТЕРІ**

SUMMARY OF THE CICA INFORMAL MINISTERIAL MEETING

(21 September 2022, New York)

The CICA Informal Ministerial Meeting was held on 21 September 2022 in New York on the sidelines of the 77th session of the UNGA.

Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi chaired the Meeting.

The Chair thanked Member States for entrusting Kazakhstan with the next term of CICA Chairmanship for 2022-2024. He informed that the Chairmanship would propose 2024 for the next Ministerial Meeting and 2026 for the next Summit Meeting, following the current Rules of Procedure and established practice.

The Chair informed the delegations that President of Kazakhstan Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev would present the Chairmanship priorities for the next biennium at the Sixth Summit.

He informed that Kuwait had expressed its intention to join CICA as a Member State and that the Chairmanship would issue a separate draft Summit decision on that matter.

The Chair noted that the CICA Secretariat was in the process of establishing relations with the Eurasian Economic Commission of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in accordance with the relevant SOC decision.

He reminded that the Chairmanship's concept of transformation, reflecting views of Member States, enjoined general support and that the SOC reached a consensus on 30 March 2022 to launch the transformation process at the upcoming CICA Summit.

The Chair stressed that CICA remained committed to the UN Charter, CICA founding documents and CICA fundamental values, principles and objectives, including consensus-based decision-making, voluntary implementation of CBMs, and respect for diversity.

It was underlined that the aim was to ensure organizational and institutional strengthening of CICA rather than its replacement by an entirely new organization created from scratch. The renewed CICA would not compete with or duplicate other regional and international organizations and forums in Asia and adjacent regions.

He informed that the Member States agreed at the Special Working Group that the two highest-level CICA governing bodies would be recognized as such – renamed from “Meetings” to “Councils”, and that the position of the Chief Executive Officer would be renamed to “Secretary General”.

It was also highlighted that the Chairmanship reflected proposals of all Member States in all versions of the draft. At the same time, the Chairmanship followed the strong call by many Member States to stick to the original Chair's approach and remove all non-consensual texts. The Chairmanship presented a preliminary draft of Revision 7 as the Chair's “closest estimate” of what was feasible. It contained paragraphs already agreed by the SWG did not contain texts that were deleted by the Member States and that had no chance for consensus. The Chair kept texts which were still under discussion and could be agreed upon with some additional effort. The draft was well balanced, clear, concise, and based on agreed CICA language.

The Chair asked the Ministers to engage in a high-level dialogue to prevent the loss of the transformation related document and safeguard CICA and the success of the anniversary Summit. He strongly requested the Member States to prevent politicization and hijacking of the document.

Highlighted open issues in the document.

1. There was still an objection to recognizing the current status-quo of CICA as de-facto functioning organization by renaming CICA at the Sixth Summit and preference to do that at the end of the transformation process. The timeframe for the transformation process could not be established, as it would depend on the substance of future deliberations. Therefore, there was a risk that the renaming of CICA would be delayed for indefinite future. Thus, the Chair called on the Member States to take that decision at the upcoming Summit as one of the first steps of transformation. The Chair was open to

various name options, including OICA – Organization for Interaction and Cooperation in Asia.

2. Despite extensive clarifications that the proposed initial title of the document as the Charter did not imply a legal nature of the document, consensus was not reached on its name. The Chair therefore proposed and requested support for the title “Astana Statement on CICA Transformation”, which addressed all concerns and proposals expressed so far. The title reflected the purpose and focus of the document and the hybrid nature of its text, which was both operational and partially declaratory.

The Chair appreciated the finalization at the SWG of the draft Regulations of the CICA Fund following hard work by all Member States since the end of 2020. The establishment of the CICA Fund as a mechanism for identification, funding and implementation of CICA projects and as CICA's project management framework would be a starting point for future operational activities. It would boost CICA's practical impact and benefits for the Member States.

The Chairmanship fully supported the initiative of Russia and China to adopt Leaders' Statement on the security of and in the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). Adoption of that document would be a very timely and practical follow-up to the last year's update of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs. Active engagement of CICA in that cooperation area demonstrated organization's relevance. CICA must be up to date with current realities, address new security challenges driven by the development of modern technologies and contribute to global efforts within the UN framework. However, negotiations on that document lacked progress due to differences in specific national approaches and attempts to include references to certain national initiatives.

Since 2012, following the precious initiative of Türkiye and the decision by the Foreign Ministers, the Member States had been trying to develop a CICA Plan of Action for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS). The Chair noted that the adoption of the Plan of Action would demonstrate the ability of CICA to counter the global threat of terrorism collectively. It was said that the UN, in particular its Counter-Terrorism Office, placed high expectations on CICA and looked forward to finalizing the Plan. However, those protracted decade-long negotiations were hampered by

excessive focus on specific details, which were divisive, did not fit the purpose and scope of the document, and were not directly related to the UNGCTS.

The Chairmanship appealed to the Ministers to demonstrate flexibility and goodwill, focus on what united the Member States, and consider the political importance of the statement on ICTs security and the counter-terrorism action plan.

Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, noted that Azerbaijan was among the first countries to support the initiative of CICA and its support remained unchanged.

The Minister supported the idea of CICA's transformation into a more effective mechanism to generate common solutions to common challenges facing the Member States. According to the Minister, gradual and inclusive transformation process based on the established principles of interaction was in the interests of all Member States. It would serve to better attainment of common values and objectives that enshrined in the core CICA documents, and improve institutional standing of the organization.

Minister Bayramov noted that implementation of joint initiatives and projects in the frameworks of relevant CBMs had been and continued to be important within the CICA process. In that regard, adoption of the updated Catalogue of CBMs at the last Ministerial Meeting was a significant step forward. Minister noted that Azerbaijan continued to attach high importance to its implementation as the way of enhancing mutual beneficial voluntary cooperation among the CICA Member States.

He underlined that Azerbaijan as a coordinator of the confidence building measures in development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors continued to actively promote transport and connectivity opportunities among the CICA Member States. More efficient use of trade opportunities among the CICA Member States was an undeniable necessity of the current times, and Azerbaijan continued to attach utmost importance to that matter both nationally and at the international level.

The Minister stated that Azerbaijan was a main initiator and active participant of trans-regional projects aiming at development of secure, effective multi-modal transport and transit corridors across East-West and North-South directions, both of them encompassed several CICA Member States. Throughout past years, Azerbaijan has invested enormous political and economic resources towards development and modernization of transport and transit infrastructure at the national and regional levels. The Baku-Tbilisi-Kars Railway and the Alat International Sea Port were the two landmark projects aiming at transforming the region into a platform of mutually beneficial cooperation. Those projects offered significant opportunities for all interested CICA Member States and Azerbaijan was ready for further deepening of cooperation with all partners in that regard.

Mr. Zheenbek Kulubaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, stressed that taking into account the 30th anniversary of CICA in 2022, as well as the efforts of Kazakhstan to strengthen the forum, Kyrgyzstan supported the priorities of Kazakhstan's CICA Chairmanship, including efforts aimed at institutional development of the Conference in particular, the launch of the CICA transformation process, the creation of the CICA Fund, cooperation in the field of security of and in the use of information and communication technologies.

The Minister highlighted that Kyrgyzstan, in the context of the interaction, contributed to the further strengthening regional economic cooperation and expressed its readiness to develop effective integrated approaches within the framework of CICA to effectively counter new challenges and threats.

The Minister welcomed the decision of Kazakhstan to continue the chairmanship in CICA in 2022-2024 and expressed confidence that the chairmanship of Kazakhstan in CICA would expand cooperation between Member States, increase the status of the forum in the international arena, and play a positive role in stimulating economic development and security cooperation in the Asian region.

Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, stressed that Tajikistan, as former chair in CICA, would continue to promote ideas and proposals announced during the Fifth CICA Summit in

Dushanbe and would promote the common objectives and strengthening of the mechanism of multiple cooperation and more significant interaction in addressing pressing issues in the CICA region.

Tajikistan was always open to the new ideas and proposals offered by the Member States and contributed to improving the work of CICA. In that regard, Tajikistan as a coordinator of the area of tourism was planning several events in 2022. Tajikistan sent to the CICA Secretariat a draft of a new Concept Paper for developing relations of CICA Member States in the priority area of tourism.

The Minister noted that the transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization and preparation for the Sixth Summit were essential issues within CICA. In that regard, Tajikistan confirmed its participation in the upcoming Summit.

He informed about the initiatives of the President of Tajikistan to declare 2025 as the International Year for the Protection of Glaciers and the International Decade of Actions “Water for Sustainable Development”.

Tajikistan believes that it is necessary to create in Afghanistan an inclusive government with the participation of representatives of the entire population of this country, taking into account the rights of women and children.

The Minister highlighted that Tajikistan regularly conducted activities on combating terrorism and extremism. He informed about High-Level Conference on “International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists” to be held on October 18-19 in Dushanbe in cooperation with the UN.

Mr. Vladimir Norov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, noted that in a short span of time huge work has been done to improve the CICA regulatory framework under Kazakhstan’s chairmanship. He informed that an updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures had been adopted, which included new areas of cooperation such as IT and epidemiological security. There were also new formats of cooperation, including the Think Tank Forum and the Council of Eminent Persons.

Uzbekistan welcomes Kazakhstan assuming the CICA Chairmanship for a new term of 2022-2024.

The Minister stressed that in the light of the complex and profound changes taking place in the world, there was a growing demand for multilateral platforms that allowed discussing and exchanging views on pressing issues of regional and global agenda, primarily in the field of security and sustainable development. In this context, Uzbekistan viewed CICA as an important platform in Asia for strengthening dialogue on stability issues as well as promoting inclusive development.

Over the recent years Uzbekistan had significantly stepped up its involvement in the CICA activities. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the Dushanbe Summit in June 2019 put forward a number of initiatives, such as strengthening cooperation in countering youth radicalization; establishing a dialogue to preserve interreligious harmony, enlightenment and cultural mutual enrichment; securing for Uzbekistan the role in the CICA framework.

The Minister pointed out that since 2019 Uzbekistan had been assigned the role of a coordinator of CICA confidence-building measures in the human dimension and had initiated an international online conference on the role of youth in countering terrorism, extremism and radicalism in 2021.

The Minister stated that Uzbekistan became the co-chair of the CICA Youth Council and stands ready to host the next meeting of the Youth Council in Uzbekistan in 2023.

According to Minister Norov, the Sixth CICA Summit in October in Astana, marking its 30th anniversary, would undoubtedly become a landmark event. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev had confirmed his in-person participation in this important gathering.

Uzbekistan supporting the adoption of the CICA Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies and the CICA Plan of Action for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as the approval of the Regulations of the CICA Fund.

The Minister stressed that the outcome of preliminary consultations had showed that many parties agreed to support the algorithm of smooth and gradual transformation of CICA into a full-fledged international organization as proposed by Kazakhstan. Uzbekistan also considered this issue in conjunction with the activities of other regional organizations having similar agenda such as the SCO, the CIS, the ECO, and the Organization of Turkic States.

The Minister once again confirmed Uzbekistan's firm commitment to supporting the chairmanship of Kazakhstan for a new term, as well as working out and adoption of the outcome documents of the Summit in October 2022.

Mr. Borith Ouch, Minister-Delegate Attached to the Prime Minister, Standing Secretary of State of the MFA of the Kingdom of Cambodia, highly valued the wise chairmanship of Delegate Kazakhstan, as well as continued support and contributions made by all the participants to the CICA process that had helped to enable CICA to become the biggest inter-governmental forum for inclusive dialogue and consultations in Asia.

The Minister-Delegate emphasized that the traditional international order that had been sustained was challenged, leading to increased uncertainties and unpredictability in international affairs. The architectural change in geopolitics, economy and finance, as well as in trade and investment, had manifested in response to the shifting balance of global power toward a multi-polar system, with emerging new security threats such as climate change, cyber-security, and extremism, etc. The COVID-19 pandemic was yet another example of the importance of trust and confidence long-advocated for in the CICA process. The health and socioeconomic challenges posed by the pandemic had forced millions of people into extreme poverty and, this factor in itself, was cause for great concerns that could lead to social instability, insecurity, and even violence.

The Minister-Delegate stressed that the multi-dimensional issue only reconfirmed the need to work together to effectively address all newly emerging and persistent issues facing our world. In this context, Cambodia stood ready and was committed to working with other CICA Member States

to further promote CICA development in serving the interests of the peoples of CICA countries for the sake of peace and prosperity in Asia and beyond.

Mr. Shahriar Alam, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, thanked CICA Chair Kazakhstan for leadership in steering important confidence building platform of Asia and the Member States for their continued engagements and contributions in CICA's activities. CICA's confidence building activities over the previous 30 years in its five set dimensions have been encouraging. The rapid transformation of the world during the previous three decades and the challenges generated had made CICA's activities ever more relevant and proved its *raison d'être*.

Challenges like food security, water security, energy security, climate security, information security and even health security are intertwined and call for collective cooperative actions. The State Minister underlined that now, more than ever before, is the time to value the effective multilateral cooperation and collaboration to address the multitude of challenges.

Bangladesh actively engaged in the UN-led peace processes and had been a consistent leading contributor of peacekeepers in the UN peace operations. Bangladesh pursued a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and violent extremism. Bangladesh was committed to ensuring a safe and secure cyber space, as we pivot digital technology for the development. Global Warming and the impact of Climate Change being one of the major challenges facing the world, and Bangladesh being one of the worst victims of it, the people of Bangladesh had been undertaking a series of adaptation and mitigation measures, despite being one of the least contributors of carbon emission. Bangladesh believed that the implementation of the Paris Agreement was the way forward to ensure effective climate action in a sustainable manner.

Bangladesh supporting and participating, and would continue to do so, in the wide range of events and activities that were regularly undertaken and implemented under the aegis of CICA. Bangladesh remained committed to adhering to the CICA process and activities so as to achieve collective security, lasting peace and common prosperity. Bangladesh welcomes the discussions that are taking place in CICA to find ways to transform the forum into a regional international organization.

Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, stressed that like in the rest of the world, peace and security in Asia could be achieved through dialogue and cooperation. However, Asia was a continent that was not as connected as the rest of the world, so there was a strong need for dialogue.

Pakistan had binding commitments to the purposes and principles of CICA and continued to extend its support to implement confidence-building measures. Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad was a leading think tank for Pakistan, appointed to the CICA Think Tank Forum.

The Minister of State appreciated Kazakhstan's leadership in coordinating CICA dynamic cognition.

Pakistan believes that CICA, in a short time, had achieved an important place, and there were prospects to develop into an international organization based on mutual understanding and consensus. It would be useful for CICA to dialogue on important issues such as climate change. The devastating floods in Pakistan were a wake-up call to find solutions to the climate crisis. There was an opportunity for the Member States to create a voice and take action using the common platform of CICA.

Mr. Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, noted that Qatar had actively participated in all conference activities on a regular basis, seeking to strengthen cooperation relations with all Member States since its accession to the CICA membership, during the Fourth CICA Summit held in Shanghai, People's Republic of China, in 2014.

The Minister of State said that in 2022 CICA celebrated the thirtieth anniversary since its foundation, and within this period, CICA had proven its importance as a platform for dialogue in political, security and development issues. Qatar believed that CICA was undergoing a major paradigm shift in its organizational structure to meet the urgent needs of the Asian continent.

Qatar expressed its support and advocacy for Kazakhstan's initiative seeking to transform CICA into an international organization for security, cooperation and development affairs in Asia.

Believing in the importance of the transformation process of CICA, The Minister of State confirmed the participation of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani - Emir of the State of Qatar at the Sixth CICA Summit.

Mr. Ali Sabry, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, was pleased to note that the Draft Astana Statement on CICA Transformation to be adopted at the forthcoming Summit, had proposed a process of transformation of CICA. Sri Lanka would be pleased to contribute to a process of transformation that would enhance future cooperation and strengthen the organizational and institutional base of the CICA.

Sri Lanka hopes that the forthcoming CICA Summit would lead to greater dialogue and cooperation resulting in enhanced development and security in the region. CICA Member States had robust institutions and therefore sharing experiences and expertise would be of mutual benefit.

The Minister noted that the Samarkand Declaration which had been adopted at the Twenty Second meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO, hosted by Uzbekistan on 15-16 September 2022, highlighted the importance of further deepening cooperation between the SCO and CICA to ensure security and stability in the region and on other issues of mutual interest.

The Minister emphasized that CICA had identified economic, social and cultural cooperation to achieve its main objective of enhancing cooperation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. Tourism was an important industry in Asia and had the capacity to strengthen bonds of understanding and friendship among the nations. He said that the previous year Sri Lanka, in capacity of the co-coordinator of Confidence Building Measures in Tourism, had successfully conducted the Virtual Business to Business Interactive Session with the CICA Member States to Enhance Tourism Cooperation.

The Minister mentioned that Sri Lanka had proposed several other activities to the CICA work plan aiming at greater integration and cooperation within the tourism industry in the region. Sri Lanka was looking forward to receiving fullest cooperation of the Member States towards the successful implementation of those projects in the coming years.

Mr. Ahmed Al Sayegh, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, reiterated the country's commitment and dedication towards CICA and expressed confidence in smooth transition into an organization as it had been built on a solid ground of constructive cooperation between Member States with the aim of achieving stability, security, development in the region and enhancing tolerance and mutual understanding through confidence building and promoting regional cooperation in various fields.

The Minister of State looking forward to strengthening engagement with the multilateral system and reinforcing fruitful cooperation with its partners around the world.

Mr. Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, stressed that 2022 was an important milestone for CICA, thirty years of the initiative presented by Kazakhstan at the UN General Assembly. The forum had seen healthy progress over the years. It had brought together countries of large and diverse continent and contributed towards building confidence among the Member States.

India is satisfied with the preparations for the CICA Summit next month and hopes that the various documents under finalization would be adopted by the Summit, including main final document. India was glad that the CICA Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was also at an advanced stage of finalization together with the CICA Statement on ICT Security. Terrorism and misuse of ICTs were two very topical challenges for the entire world and those documents would demonstrate CICA's engagement in important areas affecting the region.

As a founding member of CICA, India had actively supported CICA's initiatives and organized and participated in various CICA activities. India had been seconding professional diplomats to the CICA Secretariat for close to two decades. India had organized a successful workshop on "Energy Security" in June 2021 and a webinar on "Role of Traditional Medicine" in February 2022 that had seen wide participation. Recently, India had assumed the role of CICA coordinator on "Counterterrorism" and was planning to conduct a workshop in that area.

India supporting inclusive, consultative and consensus-based multilateralism. It stems from the recognition that the future was closely intertwined, be it on the issue of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, or the goal of sustainable development or climate change. India views CICA as an important forum to promote multilateralism in diverse and multi-polar Asia.

The Secretary appreciated the vision presented by the CICA Chair in the 30th year of its conception to progress it into an international organization through a gradual process while maintaining its core principles of consensus and voluntary nature of cooperation and looked forward to the continuous engagement in that direction.

Mr. Reza Najafi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, noted that considering the world's current circumstances, especially in the Asian region, the role and position of CICA in promoting dialogue and cooperation between Member States while consolidating regional and global peace as well as stability was of the utmost importance.

Iran as one of the active members of CICA, had always emphasized the necessity of advancing security, peace, and stability in the Asian region, strengthening and promoting the position of CICA in transforming it into an organization while also expanding its agenda to make it possible to address the political, economic, social, humanitarian, environmental, military, security and cultural aspects of Asia. Iran had supported the evolution and promotion of CICA's structure into an international organization by arranging a structured, inclusive, transparent, and consensus-based negotiation process.

Iran consistently and continuously highlighted the long-term and principled approach in establishing balanced and reasonable relations with other countries, especially with neighbors, based on cooperation, constructive dialogue, shared interests, mutual respect, and non-interference in the internal affairs of one another. For this reason, the current Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, within the framework of its innovative foreign policy program based on the three principles of combining a balanced foreign policy with dynamic diplomacy and intelligent interaction through actions that included focusing on the promotion of relations by securing common

interests with its neighbors, centered on strengthening its interactions with its neighbors in the framework of the neighborhood policy.

Iran firmly believes that it is necessary to overcome terrorism and extremism, in order to achieve peace and development, which is the common goal of all member countries. As such, Member States had to unite against this cross-border threat, taking into consideration that any tactic based on the use of terrorism and extremism to advance unrealistic goals would be an exceedingly short-sighted action that went against the interests of all nations, especially the nations of countries in the unstable region of West Asia.

Iran evaluates the holding of the Sixth CICA Summit as an essential and favorable stage for examining the problems existing in the geographical territory of the organization in order to reach a common opinion regarding their solutions and hopes that implementing this Summit's resolutions would help transform the Asia continent into a safe, stable, and developed area.

The Deputy Minister assured that Iran was always a reliable partner of CICA in that challenging path.

Mr. Sergei Vershinin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, noted that Russia had always been proactive on the CICA platform. All Russian initiatives and projects are focused on developing pragmatic cooperation for tangible results. Russia has supervised small and medium business support for 15 years and was at the origins of the CICA Business Council.

Mr. Sergei Vershinin highlighted that together with China, Russia became coordinators of the priority area of Security of and in the use of ICTs in 2022-2023. In August 2022, they held the first thematic event - an online seminar on sustainable and secure development of the Internet, attended by 18 of the 27 states of CICA. Russia and China took the initiative to approve at the October Summit a separate Statement on the Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). He counted on the support of all colleagues so that this document could be adopted at the forthcoming summit.

The Deputy Minister drew attention to the need to strengthen dialogue in the field of combating new challenges and threats. It is important to complete the CICA Plan of Action for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which had been launched 10 years before.

Russia, as well as other CICA Member States, had supported the Kazakhstan Chairmanship's idea to transform the forum into a more strictly structured mechanism. He noted that it is necessary to move towards the status of a major regional organization step by step, at a pace convenient for all states, working out the conceptual, administrative and technical aspects of the future structure as thoroughly as possible, both on the “first track” and with the involvement of relevant expertise. The draft final document did not fully take into account proposals and concerns of Russia and a number of other countries and it is necessary to continue work on the text. As a matter of principle, the Russian side proceeded from the fact that the discussion and subsequent adoption of documents should take place among all the Member States in the association, and decisions should be consensual.

Russia believes that the most promising vector of CICA activity is creating a comfortable political and economic environment in the Eurasian continent, which would contribute to the deepening of multilateral cooperation. At the same time, it is necessary to act in unison with the leading platforms of Eurasia (among them the SCO, the EAEU and the ASEAN), forming a single space of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation.

Deputy Minister Vershinin drew attention to the importance of avoiding mistakes of the OSCE, which, having moved in a politically “underdeveloped” form to the level of an organization, had not yet been able to realize itself in many areas of activity.

The Deputy Minister Vershinin expressed support for the Kazakhstan Chairmanship for initiating a complicated process of reforming the Conference. Russia would continue to provide the necessary assistance to the Chairmanship in this endeavor.

Mr. Sedat Önal, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, supported Kazakhstan's efforts to transform CICA into a stronger and more cohesive organization. While transforming organization, core principles and objectives should be preserved.

Firstly, CICA had been built on the idea of confidence building in Asia. The Member States must keep that core function. The Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures was the main tool in this respect.

Secondly, CICA's inclusive geographical scope and consensus-based decision making are important. New members make CICA stronger and more influential. In this respect, Türkiye welcomes the membership application of Kuwait.

Third, the focus on strengthening the institutional capacity of CICA during the transformation process.

The Deputy Minister urged Member States to support the adoption of a strong Summit document formally launching the transformation process. Türkiye is comfortable with all suggestions of title currently on the table and also supporting adoption of three other documents (Regulations of the CICA Fund, CICA Plan of Action for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, CICA Leaders' Statement on the Security of and in the Use of Information and Communication Technologies).

Mr. Sarun Charoensuwan, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, noted that Thailand stands ready to support Kazakhstan's proposal in transforming CICA into a leading international organization in Asia.

Thailand, as the coordinator for the implementation of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) on Sustainable Development, is committed to contributing to the recovery of the post-COVID world through the achievements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.

Thailand's training programmes on sustainable development and Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) had helped to promote complementary developments among the CICA Member States, thus increasing common capacities.

On the upcoming Sixth CICA Summit in Astana next month, Thailand welcomes the successful outcome of the negotiations of the Draft Regulations of the CICA Fund. The establishment of the Fund would help to support CICA's initiatives and developments as well as to increase participation of all Member States. Thailand pledged on full cooperation to finalize the key documents of the Summit.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary thanked China and Russia for their comments on the Concept Paper on the Implementation of CICA CBMs in Sustainable Development for 2022-2023 submitted by Thailand and hoped that revised version of the document would be supported by all Member States.

H.E. Mr. Geng Shuang, Deputy Permanent Representative (DPR) of China to the United Nations, noted that China firmly supported CICA cooperation, and stands ready to work with Kazakhstan for the preparation of the Sixth Summit. China will work hard to ensure the success of the Think Tank Forum, the Finance Summit and other events, so as to enhance CICA cooperation, and contribute to the peace and development of Asia and beyond.

First, keeping the right vision. The declaration of the Fifth CICA Summit in 2019 stressed the importance of seeking common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, fostering an international relationship based on mutual respect, fairness and justice, and mutually beneficial cooperation, and building a community with shared future for mankind. This reflected China's shared principle of cooperation, and also represented the common vision of Member States for CICA's future development. The Deputy Permanent Representative stressed the need to uphold the collective consensus, and that the above-mentioned principles should be maintained in the outcome document for 2022 Summit.

Second, safeguarding security and stability. President Xi had proposed the Global Security Initiative, which advocated the win-win mindset to address complex security challenges, and offered China's solutions for lasting peace and stability of the region and the wider world. CICA, as a security cooperation platform, could push for and contribute to the implementation of the Initiative for Asia's peace and tranquility. China supporting 2022 Summit

in adopting a statement on information security cooperation, and the Plan of Action for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Third, promoting development cooperation. The previous year at the UN General Assembly President Xi had proposed the Global Development Initiative. It focused on key issues facing developing countries, and had received support from over 100 countries and the UN and other international organizations. China is ready to work with other CICA parties to share development opportunities, address global development challenges, and promote steady progress of the Initiative for the greater benefit of the Asian people. In 2022, China will hold events in such fields as agriculture, environmental protection and disaster relief within the CICA framework.

Fourth, championing fairness and justice. History had repeatedly proven that bloc confrontations and the Cold War mentality would only undermine solidarity and cooperation and hinder countries' common development. CICA Member States should stay independent from external influence, deepen friendship and cooperation, accommodate each other's concerns, and uphold common security and development interests. Member States need to support and practice multilateralism, fairness and justice, work closely on international affairs, safeguard the central role of the UN, and endeavor to build a fairer and more effective global governance.

China informed about upcoming 20th National Congress of the Communist Party. China would join hands with CICA members to serve as builders of world peace, contributors to global development, and defenders of the international order, and strive for greater progress of humanity.

Mr. Jonathan Miller, Deputy Permanent Representative (DPR) of Israel to the United Nations, noted that the most basic fundament of CICA is perhaps the key for its success in those long 30 years: the concept of consensus. It is very strongly interrelated to the second unwritten rule of CICA - the principle of non-politicization. This was a sacred idea which prevented internal disputes and endless arguments that would lead to nowhere.

Israel had deepened its close cooperation with so many Asian countries in the fields of commerce, science, health, tourism and culture. In the previous

two years, since the signing of the Abraham Accords in September 2020, a new era had begun for Israel and two other CICA members - the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Israel wish that the process of transformation would be successfully accomplished, based on the spirit of CICA, the principle of consensus and a non-politicization.

Dr. Ahmed Fahmy Sahin, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations, noted that Egypt firmly believes that ensuring peace and security in Asia is not only indispensable for the stability in Asia but also for both regional and global stability.

Egypt confirmed its efforts in contributing to CICA's objectives to promote peace, security and stability in Asia, and to eradicate the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as to promote trade and economic cooperation for the prosperity and stability in Asia.

To this effect, Egypt has also been keen to actively participated in all meetings to prepare for the upcoming 6th CICA Summit. Egypt is confident that Kazakhstan will no doubtedly succeed in organizing and hosting a memorable 6th CICA Summit.

Egypt commended all Member States for working together in the preparation process to this end, and also commend Kazakhstan's Chairmanship for gaining consensus on the launching of the transformation process of CICA to a full-fledged regional International Organization for Interaction and Cooperation in Asia.

Egypt welcomes and supports granting the CICA Member State status to Kuwait during the upcoming Summit.

H.E. Mr. Kairat Sarybay, CICA Executive Director, informed on organizational, administrative and protocol issues of the upcoming Sixth Summit, asked Member States to expedite their planning of CBM events for 2023 and provide very brief and preliminary information as soon as possible.

The Executive Director called on all Member States, who had not done so yet, to consider contributing to 2022 CICA Secretariat budget, and encouraged Member States to second their professional personnel to the Secretariat as well as nominate candidates for the vacancies of experts of the Secretariat.

H.E. Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Chair, invited all Member States to build on this positive momentum in the run-up to the Summit and steer the work of negotiators in capitals towards achieving timely consensus on milestone decisions for adoption by the leaders.