



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

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

**№ 15-1/96emb**

*Enclosure:  
as stated,  
on 2 p.*

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kazakhstan and Embassies of the CICA Member States, and has the honour to forward the concept to an online workshop organized by Bangladesh side within the framework of the CICA Plan on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures for 2021 on “Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in Disaster Risk Management and a Publication on Disaster Risk Reduction”, which is scheduled to be held on April 5, 2021, as well as to inform that the online Preparatory Meeting for the Workshop will be held on March 20, 2021. The workshop will also include online publications on disaster risk reduction in November 2021. A concept paper for the workshop is attached.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Kazakhstan and Embassies of the CICA Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Nur-Sultan, 26 February 2021



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN  
AND  
EMBASSIES OF CICA MEMBER STATES  
Ankara, Beijing, Moscow, Nur-Sultan**



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*Приложение:  
упомянутое,  
на 2 л.*

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение Министерству иностранных дел Республики Казахстан и посольствам государств-членов СВМДА, и имеет честь препроводить концепцию к онлайн-семинару, организуемому Бангладешской стороной в рамках Плана СВМДА по реализации мер доверия на 2021 год на тему «Содействие сплоченности: Уроки волонтерства в управлении рисками стихийных бедствий и публикации по снижению рисков стихийных бедствий», который состоится 5 апреля 2021 г., а также сообщить о том, что подготовительная онлайн-встреча к семинару будет проведена 20 марта 2021 г. По семинару также предусмотрены онлайн-публикации по снижению рисков стихийных бедствий в ноябре 2021 г. Концептуальный документ семинара прилагается.

Секретариат пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить Министерству иностранных дел Республики Казахстан и посольствам государств-членов СВМДА уверения в своем весьма высоком уважении.

город Нур-Султан, 26 февраля 2021 г.



**МИНИСТЕРСТВО ИНОСТРАННЫХ ДЕЛ  
РЕСПУБЛИКИ КАЗАХСТАН  
И  
ПОСОЛЬСТВА ГОСУДАРСТВ-ЧЛЕНОВ СВМДА  
города Анкара, Москва, Нур-Султан, Пекин**



## **CONCEPT**

### **of the workshop on Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in Disaster Risk Management and a publication on DRR**

#### **I. Introduction:**

Bangladesh is a land of resilience despite being ranked as one of the most disaster-prone countries of the world. From climate vulnerability perspective, 100% of the population is vulnerable. Amid all these adversities, Bangladesh is one of the top five countries in the world which has the highest tier of economic growth rate. The country has set a new example of agility. People in this country are often affected by water-related disasters, including floods, riverbank erosion and cyclones. In addition, recent rapid urbanization has increased the risk for earthquakes as well as other human induced disasters. Managing disasters has been a major focus, with investments in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) significantly decreasing disaster mortality in recent decades. The context, however, is changing - Bangladesh is highly at risk from climate change and earthquakes which pose a challenge for its rapidly growing cities.

Despite these challenges, Bangladesh has made major recent socio-economic gains, achieving a lower middle-income country status. Nonetheless, significant economic losses due to disasters continue to occur and the industrial sectors are highly vulnerable. However, the country is known as Role Model of Disaster Management internationally because of its well functional regulatory framework. Since independence Bangladesh has started to make disaster risk reduction part of its culture. The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman paved the way. He brought back the volunteerism of the nation in an institutional model, popularly known as Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP). Inherent *Bengali* culture of social capital (supporting neighbours without expecting any return) has been retained and contributing to the nation for decades.

Since poverty, sustainable development, disasters and climate change are interlinked, it is an imperative to integrate Disaster Management (DM) measures in development initiatives. Development and investment plans should be risk-informed based on disaster risk assessments and avoid generating new risks or exacerbating the existing ones. Hence, the country has been working on integrating Disaster Impact Assessment for development planning and project formulation. In the last two five-year plan of Bangladesh, risk informed development model is being promoted. Since 2015 Bangladesh is also promoting inclusive DRM which is upholding the spirit of whole of society approach. It is vital to involve all parts of the society in business of the government for the disaster management of this country.

Disaster risk management is also related to environmental sustainability with emphasis on peace and human security. To ensure that we need to focus on disaster risks arising from regional and global perspectives. Emphasizing the importance of common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible and equal security based on the common understanding that has been reached so far and recognizing the need for developing dialogue on a regional security architecture, the regional co-operation, information and knowledge sharing is vital in managing natural and human induced disasters. National level learning will be an inspiration for regional practice and promote harmony in the region. This year we would like to focus on volunteerism, how it is





increasing social cohesion and agility of nations. The Member States of Conference on Interaction & Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) recognize that the confidence building measures are vital for regional security and disaster risk management. Exchange of information on hydro-meteorological and industrial hazards and disasters on their territories which in their view may affect their neighbors. The Member States would identify a coordination body, authorized to organize interaction of disaster management and search and rescue services, and creation of a system of assistance in case of natural disasters and emergency situations. Bangladesh is a member of CICA while India as neighbor and Sri Lanka as SAARC country have common interest in managing disaster risk for its similar risk landscape.

## II. Name, Date and Place of Event

- A workshop on Promoting Cohesion: Learning from Volunteerism in Disaster Risk Management, April 5, 2021, Virtual Platform
- A Preparation Meeting for the workshop, March 20, 2021, Virtual Platform
- Publication on DRR, November 2021, Online Publications

## III. Organizers

Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CICA.

## IV. Goals and tasks


- Develop a plan of action that is aligned with country risk landscape from disaster and climate change;
- Establish and strengthen the regional disaster management system to reduce risks and to improve best practices and lessons learnt from disaster risk reduction efforts at national levels;
- Establish a system of exchanging information on prevention, preparedness and management of natural disasters;
- To share the priority of the actions for enhancing cooperation on knowledge and information sharing among the member states of CICA;

## V. Suggested list of participants

- ✓ For the workshop on DRR, April 5, 2021, Virtual Platform & A Preparation Meeting for the workshop, March 20, 2021, Virtual Platform  
Representatives from government and non-government organizations of members states of CICA
- ✓ For the Publication on DRR in new-normal situation  
Collect write-up on DRR from member states of CICA.

## VI. Expected Results:

- A SMART work plan for the region;

  
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কাজী তাসমীন আরা আজমিরী  
উপসচিব  
দুর্যোগ ব্যবস্থাপনা ও ত্রাণ মন্ত্রণালয়  
সংস্কৃত প্রতিষ্ঠান বাংলাদেশ সরকার