



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

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

№ 17-1/624

MOST URGENT!

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the CICA Member States and, on behalf of the CICA Chairmanship, has the honour to forward Revision 4 of the draft Declaration of the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting (document MM/2021/DRAFT/3/Rev.4) to be considered at the resumed Special Working Group (SWG) meeting on 24 September 2021 at 14:00 Nur-Sultan time (GMT+6 hours) and a Note by the Chair.

*Enclosure:
as stated, on 11 p.*

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

Nur-Sultan, 23 September 2021



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



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ВЕСЬМА СРОЧНО!

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и, от имени Председательства СВМДА, имеет честь препроводить Ревизию №4 проекта Декларации шестой Министерской встречи СВМДА (ММ/2021/DRAFT/3/Rev.4) для рассмотрения на возобновленном заседании СРГ, которое состоится 24 сентября 2021 г. в 14:00 по времени г. Нур-Султан (GMT +6 часов), и сообщение от Председателя.

*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 11 л.*

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

город Нур-Султан, 23 сентября 2021 г.



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

ШҰҒЫЛ!

Қосымша:
аталған 11 п.

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (АӨСШК) Хатшылығы АӨСШК мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіре отырып, АӨСШК төрағалығы атынан, 2021 жылғы 24 қыркүйекте Нұр-Сұлтан қаласының уақытымен (GMT +6 сағат) сағат 14.00-де өтетін Арнаулы жұмыс тобының (АЖТ) келесі отырысы барысында қарастырылатын АӨСШК Сыртқы істер министрлерінің 6-ші кездесу декларациясы жобасының 4-ші нұсқасын (құжат № MM/2021/DRAFT/3/Rev.4) және төрағалықтың қысқа хатын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

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

Нұр-Сұлтан қаласы, 2021 жылғы 23 қыркүйек

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

**NOTE BY THE CHAIR
on Revision 4 of the Draft Declaration
of the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting**

Revision 4 of the Draft Declaration of the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting (document **MM/2021/DRAFT/3/Rev.4 of 23 September 2021**) results from discussions at the SWG meeting on 22 September.

The Chair proposes a text which can now serve as the basis for finalization of the draft at the SWG meeting tomorrow, 24 September. All elements of the previous draft which do not and are not expected to enjoy consensus are not included.

The Chair therefore kindly reminds of the fundamental principle of decision-making in CICA – **consensus rule**, which makes our forum relevant for all Member States, and calls on all Member States to demonstrate utmost flexibility and cooperative spirit, and refrain from adding texts which were discussed earlier and did not find consensus, as well as new additions, as these will prolong our work on the draft Declaration.

The Chair calls upon the SWG to conclude its deliberations on the draft Declaration at its meeting on 24 September and forward it to the SOC.



DRAFT DECLARATION
of the Sixth Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Conference
on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

Having met in Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan, for the Sixth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs, when the situation in the world, including Asia, requires close interaction, exchange of views, joint response to new challenges and threats, peaceful settlement of conflicts and stronger confidence building measures;

Highly appreciating, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of CICA, the personal role of the CICA Founder, First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Leader of the Nation Nursultan Nazarbayev, who initiated CICA and made a significant contribution to the development of the CICA process and common efforts for peace, security and cooperation in Asia;

Reaffirming our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, universally recognized norms and principles of international law, being guided by the principles of CICA enshrined in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States of 14 September 1999 and the Almaty Act of 4 June 2002;

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations as a universal multilateral organization in changing circumstances of the international system;

Bearing in mind the importance of common, comprehensive, cooperative, sustainable, indivisible and equal security;

Recognizing that Asia, as the largest region in the world with the potential to transform into the driving force behind global progress, should inevitably become a strong commonwealth of independent nations, pursuing common goals and contributing to global peace and security;

Stressing that CICA, as an intergovernmental forum with the largest geographical reach in the Asian region and a comprehensive agenda, is a platform with the relevant potential to consolidate the collective wisdom of Asian countries in the interests of peace, cooperation, security and development, and to ensure their full inclusion in the global multilateral decision-making processes;

Conscious of the fact that the world community faces numerous new challenges and threats, including those of epidemiological nature;

Realizing that the challenges in the CICA area of responsibility are complex and interrelated and require stronger cooperation among the Member States and effective implementation of confidence building measures in all dimensions;

Considering Asia's rich cultural diversity and the importance of promoting intercultural harmony through increased people-to-people contacts and interaction;

Being committed to the main goal and directions of CICA activities to strengthen cooperation through the development of multilateral approaches to promoting peace, security and stability in Asia;

DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

I

1. We are convinced that effective multilateral cooperation based on the principles stipulated in the UN Charter, as well as in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States and the Almaty Act, is an important element in maintaining regional and international peace

and security. We will undertake joint efforts to further develop CICA in order to implement effective consensus-based approaches to security and cooperation. We underscore the need, at the current international and regional circumstances, for strengthened unity and increased effectiveness of CICA, given the emerging threats and challenges to the peace, security, and sustainable development in our region.

2. We reemphasize that cooperation in the CICA region will be based on respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non – interference in internal affairs, peaceful co-existence, mutual benefit and refraining from the threat or use of force against territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. We affirm our commitment to the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including in the peaceful settlement of disputes.

3. We reaffirm the importance of promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The process of promoting and protecting human rights should be conducted in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the UN, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and international law. It is the responsibility of all States, with their specific historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems.

4. We support preserving and strengthening the values of multilateralism and international cooperation as the fundamental prerequisite for promoting and supporting the CICA process. We are willing to continue to deepen cooperation on confidence building measures in various fields, explore the construction of an open, inclusive regional security framework based on multilateralism and respect for principles of international law, promote a fair multipolar system of international relations featuring mutual respect, fairness and justice.

5. We stress that terrorism, separatism and extremism coupled with human rights abuses, financial crises and environmental degradation continue to affect the lives of millions of people around the world.

6. We support the proposal by the CICA Chairman-in-Office to hold structured discussions on transformation of CICA into an international organization for regional security and cooperation in Asia and will study the concept of transformation.

II

7. We are concerned about the risks associated with the existence and proliferation of nuclear, radiological, chemical and biological weapons and the means of their delivery, and we call for broad cooperation of all stakeholders in the interests of ensuring nuclear, biological and chemical security, based on the principles of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Geneva Protocol, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), taking into account Member States' respective memberships to these international agreements.

8. We call for further cooperation in the field of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament through efforts in the context of treaties and fora in which CICA Member States are members. CICA Member States – Parties to the NPT reaffirm their commitment to maintaining and strengthening the effectiveness, universality and authority of the treaty, promoting the three pillars of the treaty in a comprehensive and balanced manner, and promoting the success of the tenth Review Conference of the treaty.

9. We recognize the inalienable right of all states to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, including energy generation, subject to appropriate observance of their non-proliferation obligations and obligations arising from agreements to which they are parties. We reiterate our firm support to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) and call on all concerned parties to implement their respective obligations stemming from the JCPOA.

10. We underline the importance of ensuring safety and security of outer space activities, use of outer space for peaceful purposes and prevention of an arms race in outer space, as provided for by the First Special Session of the UNGA for Disarmament in 1978. We reiterate that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements,

as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects.

11. We express deep concern that the indiscriminate use of landmines, improvised explosive devices, explosive remnants of war and Dense Inert Metal Explosives (DIME) in armed conflicts threatens the peace, security and stability of States, hinders post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts, and recognize the positive contribution that mine action activities make to stabilization and peace sustainment efforts in the aftermath of conflict. In this regard, we call upon Member States and relevant UN entities, in accordance with their mandates, as well as international actors, civil society and relevant stakeholders, in a position to do so, to provide assistance to clear landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices, upon request of the affected Member States.

12. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism. We express our deep concern about the security challenges in Asia and beyond, caused by the terrorist threat and the actions of terrorist organizations. We reiterate our commitment to work together to prevent and suppress terrorist acts through increased international solidarity and cooperation, in full recognition of the United Nations' central role, and in accordance with UN Charter and obligations under international law, as well as through the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the CICA area of responsibility. We reaffirm that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnicity. We reiterate that counter-terrorism should not adopt double standards.

13. We call upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism, which should include countering radicalization, recruitment, movement of terrorists and provision of safe heavens to them, dismantling terrorist bases, combating money laundering, blocking sources of financing terrorism, and countering misuse of the internet by terrorist entities. We underline the need for all countries to ensure that territories under their control are not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries.

14. We emphasize the need to undertake cooperation within the CICA framework in the area of information security, acknowledging the leading role

of the United Nations as the main multilateral fora for deliberating and searching for consensus on these issues, and reaffirm our commitment to jointly counter the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) specially for criminal purposes or other purposes harmful to international peace, stability and security.

15. We note that the COVID-19, the most serious public health challenge of modern times, has a complex negative impact on the socio-economic situation of the Member States and is detrimental to the development gains. We recognize the importance of joining the efforts of the international community to overcome global political and socio-economic consequences of the pandemic, as well as to strengthen the health systems throughout the world in a spirit of cooperation and solidarity, including through ensuring equitable access to vaccines and medicines as well as transfer of related technologies. We highly appreciate and support the pivotal role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in this respect. We acknowledge the importance of continuing work between states on mutual recognition of national documents of vaccination against COVID-19 and respective testing.

16. We emphasize that tracing the sources of viruses is purely a scientific task, based on expert investigation and research on a global scale, and is key for the prevention of future pandemics.

17. We express our commitment to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals based on national policies of each Member State, improving the quality of life of the Member States' population and sharing the best international practices of development.

18. We note the importance of strengthening cooperation in the field of environmental protection, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, emergency management, sustainable energy transitions, sustainable water management, biodiversity conservation. We welcome global initiatives to promote green and low-carbon development, stimulate green investment, reduce all polluting emissions into the atmosphere, support the green transformation of carbon-intensive industries towards low-carbon economy, while taking into account the development policies and priorities of countries. We note the need for more global attention to mobilize means of

implementation, especially financing, to achieve the 100-billion-dollar goal annually.

19. We recognize the importance of digital economy, digital transformation and E-commerce in our countries, including the adoption and effective integration of digital technologies, bridging the digital divide and building digital workforce capacity to cope with impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate economic recovery in all Member States.

20. We underline the strategic importance of connectivity for trade and development and improved cooperation among the Member States. We also underline the importance of establishment and timely operationalization of new transport corridors through the CICA region for full utilization of potential of transport corridors to enhance peace and security by building confidence and minimizing the risk of conflict.

21. We believe that an open world economy is essential and we remain committed to an open, transparent, non-discriminatory, inclusive and rule-based multilateral trading system, including through the World Trade Organization (WTO). We strongly oppose all forms of unilateralism and protectionism implemented contrary to the WTO agreements and other relevant international law, including unilateral coercive measures in violation of the UN Charter. We actively promote the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) to achieve positive results, start the selection process of appellate body as soon as possible, and restore the dispute settlement mechanism of the two-instance standing court system.

22. We are convinced that diversity of cultures and cultural heritage of the Member States is a valuable asset of CICA, and we advocate further strengthening of cultural ties, development of inter-civilizational dialogue, strengthening of contacts in the fields of education, science and humanities among the Member States.

23. We are committed to strengthening sports exchanges and cooperation among Member States, oppose the politicization of sports, expect the important international sports events held in Member States to be a complete success, including Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympics Winter Games, Ekaterinburg 2022 SportAccord World Sport & Business Summit, 2022 World Nomad Games

in Turkey, Kazan 2023 Special Olympics World Winter Games, Gangwon 2024 Winter Youth Olympic Games, and the 19th Asian Games.

24. We emphasize that restoring peace and economic development in Afghanistan is key for security and stability in the CICA area. We call upon people in power in Afghanistan to implement inclusive and representative policies. Emphasizing the right of all Afghan people to live in safety, security and with dignity, we stand ready to support the efforts of the international community to assist the Afghan people. We also underscore that Afghanistan should not become a safe haven for terrorist groups. We stand for united, sovereign, and prosperous Afghanistan that exists in harmony with its neighbors. We are concerned with potential threat of penetration of terrorist and other destructive elements from Afghan territory to the neighboring countries.

We emphasize the need to address the humanitarian situation and to uphold human rights, including those of women, children and minorities. We emphasize the importance of safe passage in and out of Afghanistan, as well as immediate, direct, unimpeded and regular access to people of Afghanistan to meet their humanitarian needs. We call upon all the concerned parties to follow a collective approach as adopted by UNSC Resolution 2593 (2021). We commend the generous hospitality of those countries which received the displaced citizens of Afghanistan in the past and during the current crisis and stress the importance of sharing burden and responsibility of the international community in this regard.

We call for the active involvement of Afghanistan in the economic integration processes in the region and encourage international community to assist Afghanistan in implementing major infrastructure projects, particularly in the areas of transport and energy, which undoubtedly contribute to Afghanistan's emergence as an important link in regional connectivity.

III

25. We stress the important role of the Chairman-in-Office – the Republic of Kazakhstan in giving new impetus to the CICA process, promoting institutional development of CICA and practical implementation of confidence building measures.

26. We commend the efforts of the Chairman-in-Office, coordinators and co-coordinators of confidence building measures on enhancing cooperation in various dimensions. The Member States will continue to advance the CICA process through the implementation of confidence building measures in the military-political dimension, in combating new challenges and threats, and in the economic, environmental and human dimensions. In that context, the Member States stand ready to keep with the principles of voluntary and equal participation, consensus building and gradual basis, conduct dialogue and consultation, further strengthen cooperation.

27. We recognize the role of confidence building measures in enhancing cooperation, establishing and strengthening the atmosphere of peace and cooperation between the Member States. In this respect, we commend the outcomes of CICA events, held in line with the CICA Plan on Implementation of Confidence Building Measures for 2021, as well as the work of the Business Council, Youth Council and other CICA forums.

28. We welcome the initiatives to include new confidence building measures in the fields of epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals as well as the security of and the use of ICTs into the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures. We call on the Member States to actively cooperate in implementing these confidence building measures.

29. In order to further strengthen confidence and cooperation among the Member States, we adopt the updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures adapted to new realities and we will make every effort for its implementation.

30. We adopt the Regulations of the CICA Council of Eminent Persons – an advisory body designed to develop advice on a wide range of issues of interaction within the framework of CICA, including strengthening of peace and security, implementation of confidence building measures.

31. We appreciate contribution of CICA Member States to dialogue within the CICA Think Tank Forum, initiated and steered by the People's Republic of China, and welcome its transformation into a permanent information and analytical advisory body of CICA.

32. We emphasize the importance of further studying the matter of establishment of a CICA Fund in accordance with the objectives and purposes of CICA.

IV

33. We welcome Turkmenistan as an Observer of CICA.

34. We emphasize the importance of unified efforts of the Member States in advancing partnerships with other regional and international organizations and forums for further efforts in ensuring peace, security, stability and sustainable development across Asia and globally.

V

35. We commend the efforts of the CICA Secretariat aimed at ensuring the work of the Conference and call on all CICA Member States to consider making voluntary contributions to the Secretariat's budget and to second members of the professional personnel on a regular basis.

36. We request those Member States, which have not already done so, to ratify the Statute of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia on an expeditious basis. We also request those Member States, which have not done so already, to sign and ratify the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Secretariat, its Personnel and Representatives of Members.

37. We express our gratitude to the Republic of Kazakhstan for organizing this Meeting and agree to hold the Seventh Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 2024. We welcome the intention of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the Sixth CICA Summit in Nur-Sultan in 2022.

38. We pledge our support to the efforts of the Chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan to mark the 30th anniversary of CICA in 2022 by achieving new milestones in further strengthening our forum.