



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

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

№ 17-1/662

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 5 p.*

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 preliminary draft minutes of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting on 29 September 2021 for comments and suggestions from Member States. The final draft minutes will be supplemented and circulated after the closure of the SOC meeting on 8 October 2021.

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

Nur-Sultan, 5 October 2021



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



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И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

№ 17-1/662

*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 5 л.*

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь препроводить предварительный проект протокола заседания Комитета старших должностных лиц (КСДЛ) 29 сентября 2021 года для получения комментариев и предложений государств-членов. Итоговый проект протокола будет дополнен и направлен после завершения заседания КСДЛ 8 октября 2021 года.

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

город Нур-Султан, 5 октября 2021 г.



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

Қосымша:
аталған 5 п.

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (АӨСШК) Хатшылығы АӨСШК мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіре отырып, мүше мемлекеттердің түсіндірмелері мен ұсыныстарын алу үшін 2021 жылғы 29 қыркүйекте Аға лауазымды тұлғалар комитеті (АЛТК) отырысы хаттамасының алдын ала жобасын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды. Хаттаманың қорытынды жобасы 2021 жылғы 8 қазанда АЛТК отырысы аяқталғаннан кейін толықтырылып, жолданады.

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

Нұр-Сұлтан қаласы, 2021 жылғы 5 қазан

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



Secretariat

**DRAFT MINUTES
OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING
on 29 September and 8 October 2021 (online format)**

The meeting of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) was held in Nur-Sultan in an online format on 29 September and 8 October 2021. H.E. Mr. Shakhrat Nuryshev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, chaired the meeting.

The agenda (SOC/2021-II/Agenda/1 and SOC/2021-II/Agenda/2), decisions taken (SOC/2021-II/DEC/1, _____) and the list of participants of the meeting were circulated to the Member States on _____ through Secretariat Note Verbale _____.

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Nuryshev recalled that on 8 September 2021 he had briefed representatives of all Member States on the status of documents submitted for adoption by the upcoming 6th Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Since then, all of these documents had been thoroughly discussed by the Special Working Group (SWG) at its last meeting which took place on 14, 15, 22, 24 and 28 September. He thanked all delegations for their hard work throughout the year.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The SOC adopted its agenda as contained in document SOC/2021-II/Agenda/1.

3. Preparations to the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting

Mr. Nuryshev referred to the recently dispatched Information Circular No.2 regarding organizational and protocol-related aspects which included preliminary programme, draft agenda and general information about the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting on October 11-12, 2021.

In the evening of October 11, it was planned to organize the informal dinner for the heads of delegations. The programme of the Ministerial Meeting included collective meeting with the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on October 12. The working languages of the Ministerial Meeting would be English and Russian.

Simultaneous translation would be provided. The time limit of delivering speech of Ministers would be 5 minutes, for Deputy Ministers - 4 minutes, for other speakers - 3 minutes. After the Ministerial Meeting, it was planned to conduct collective meeting of the heads of delegations with the Founder of CICA, First President of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev. As the CICA Secretariat recently moved to the new office located in EXPO area, on October 12, it was planned to hold the opening ceremony of the new office of the Secretariat with attendance of heads of delegations.

All arriving persons crossing the state border of Kazakhstan must provide the certificate with the negative PCR test result for COVID-19 in English or Russian with the issuance date of certificate not exceeding 3 days (72 hours) at the moment of crossing the state border of Kazakhstan. It would be necessary to pass additional PCR testing on the eve of the event for members of delegations participating in the event. The Chairmanship had imposed additional requirements for participants due to COVID-19 which could be found in the information circular. At the moment, there were some countries and organizations that had not confirmed participation of the heads of delegations. In order to promptly resolve organizational issues of the Meeting, Azerbaijan, China, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka were requested to provide the confirmation for participation of their ministers as soon as possible.

The Russian Federation welcomed all participants of the meeting and thanked the Chairmanship for its work done in preparation for the Ministerial Meeting. The Russian Federation confirmed the participation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in the CICA Ministerial Meeting. Russia asked if there were any requests from CICA partners or observers to address the Meeting.

The Russian Federation inquired about Observers who would address the Ministerial Meeting. The Chairperson clarified that the Secretariat was compiling the list of Observers and Guests requesting to address the Ministerial Meeting and would send it to the Member States to seek their consent.

Azerbaijan noted that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan would not be able to participate in the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting due to the scheduling conflict with another meeting.

China noted that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Wang Yi, had yet to confirm his participation in the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting and that the Chinese side would take all necessary efforts to that end.

Iraq noted that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq would not be able to attend the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting, and Ambassador would participate instead.

Jordan noted that the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jordan had not confirmed the attendance in the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting yet.

Sri Lanka noted that the Minister and Deputy Minister of Sri Lanka would not be able to participate the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting.

4. Draft declaration of the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting

The Chairperson noted that the SWG had held lengthy deliberations on the draft Ministerial Declaration. The Chairmanship was aiming at a concise and clearly structured text which would reflect the main principles of CICA and should include such topics as global trends, security issues, sustainable development, and connectivity. The Chairperson stressed that the Chairmanship had held intensive bilateral consultations with several Member States and had made all possible efforts to satisfy all delegations. He urged all Member States to demonstrate utmost flexibility and cooperative spirit, refrain from adding texts which had been already rejected, and make all efforts to find compromise wording.

The SOC considered Revision 5 of draft Declaration and agreed to finalize discussion at its resumed meeting on 8 October 2021, to be preceded by an SWG meeting on 6 October.

[Placeholder]

5. Draft of the updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures

The Chairperson recalled that draft of the updated Catalogue had passed thorough discussion and drafting at the SWG and SOC meetings in May, June and September. Only two paragraphs of the draft – p.2.2.1 and 2.2.10 were left unfinished by the SWG. Some additional time was needed for two Member States to resolve those outstanding issues, and there was an understanding that it could be achieved at the SOC meeting. The SWG had therefore recommended at its last meeting that that the SOC consider approving the draft updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and recommend its adoption by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA Member States. During the SOC meeting, the two Member States concerned agreed on amendments to paragraphs 2.2.1 and 2.2.10, and consensus was achieved on the whole document.

Decision: The SOC approved the draft updated CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and recommended its adoption by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA Member States.

5. Draft Regulations of the CICA Think Tank Forum

The Chairperson noted that the draft Regulations of the CICA Think Tank Forum, a document for adoption by the decision of the SOC, had also been thoroughly discussed at SWG and consensus was achieved. One Member States which did not have objections to the adoption of that decision, had requested additional time to complete its internal approval procedures. The SWG had therefore recommended that the SOC approve that draft decision through silence procedure. The Chairperson supported

this recommendation and proposed that the SOC place this decision, as contained in document SOC/2021-II/DRAFT/1/Rev.2 of 27 September 2021, under a silence procedure, on the basis of Rule 10.2.3 of the CICA Rules of Procedure, with the deadline of 7 October 2021.

Decision: The SOC placed the draft SOC decision on the Regulations of the CICA Think Tank Forum under the silence procedure with the deadline of 7 October 2021.

6. Draft amendments to the CICA Rules of Procedure related to the status of observers

The Chairperson noted that at its previous meeting on 23 June 2021 the SOC had tasked the SWG with agreeing on amendments to the CICA Rules of Procedure in relation to the status of Observers before the next SOC meeting. In implementation of that SOC decision, the Chairmanship had submitted a set of proposals on amendments to the Rules of Procedure on 13 August 2021. The SWG agreed on the draft amendments, as contained in document MM/2021/DRAFT/2, and recommended that the SOC approve them and recommend their adoption by the Ministerial Meeting.

Decision: The SOC approved the draft CICA Rules of Procedure (as amended in 2021) and recommended its adoption by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA Member States.

7. Information about the draft Regulations of the CICA Fund

The Chairperson recalled that the Chairmanship's non-paper on the CICA Fund had been circulated among Member States on 5 November 2020. On 11 December 2020, the SOC took note of the Chairmanship's initiative to establish the CICA Fund. On 15 December 2020, the Secretariat requested the Member States to provide their comments and suggestions to the initiative to establish the CICA Fund. Thereafter, the Chairmanship received a broad range of comments and proposals from Member States. On this basis, the Chairmanship continued its work on elaborating a concept and draft regulations on the CICA Fund and would revert to the matter after the Ministerial Meeting in October.

The Chairperson noted that the main direction of this work was to propose objectives, functions and a structure of a Fund which would be based on the principles of consensus and voluntary participation, and that this new mechanism would be used for goals fully consistent with CICA goals and wishes of Member States, and would be under full control of the SOC.

8. Any other business

- The Chairperson noted that the SWG considered the draft SOC decision on the Regulations for **Anniversary Medal "30 years of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia"**, supported the initiative by the

Chairmanship on establishing such a medal and recommended that the SOC consider approving that decision through a silence procedure following additional consultations with the Member States. The Chairmanship intended to take all comments into account and issue a new version of the draft decision and continue consultations. All Member States were welcome to provide their comments at the meeting or send them in writing to the Secretariat.

The Russian Federation noted that there was no need to establish approval by consensus of nominated candidates from CICA Member States, because Member States should not comment on candidates nominated by other Member States. However, approval of candidates by the SOC would be needed for representatives of other international organizations nominated for the award.

Decision: The SOC considered the initiative by the Chairmanship on establishing an Anniversary Medal “30 years of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia” and will take a decision on this matter through a silence procedure following additional consultations with the Member States.

- Remarks of Executive Director Kairat Sarybay on the 2022 Plan for Implementation of Confidence Building Measures

The Executive Director reported to the SOC that in 2021 Member States conducted 22 events on CBM implementation, and another 15 were going to be conducted by the end of year. He recalled that at the previous SOC meeting, on 23 June 2021, the SOC adopted the general guidelines for conducting events on implementation of CICA CBMs. In that regard, the SOC should adopt the CICA plan for 2022 at its meeting before the end of 2021. Four countries, namely: India, Kazakhstan, Bahrain, and Tajikistan had sent their input for the following year’s plan. The Executive Director urged other Member States to follow the examples of those countries and share their inputs for the draft plan for 2022.

- Remarks of Executive Director Kairat Sarybay on the new web site of the CICA Secretariat

The Executive Director noted that in December 2020, at the SOC meeting, the Secretariat announced intention to update its website to make it more informative and visually appealing. In April 2020, the Secretariat announced a competition to select the developer of the new CICA website. Five IT companies took part in the competition that identified the most experienced and creative one (Qaz Gits). Together with the developer, the Secretariat worked on the structure and content of the new website and tried to ensure meaningful information. As a result of that work, on 22 September 2021, a new website was launched with the same address <https://www.s-cica.org/>. The Executive Director invited suggestions of Member States on its content.