



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

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

№17-1/705

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 draft minutes of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting held from 29 September to 12 October 2021 for comments and suggestions from Member States to be received by 27 October 2021.

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 7 p.*

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

Nur-Sultan, 22 October 2021



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



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*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 7 л.*

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь препроводить проект протокола заседания Комитета старших должностных лиц (КСДЛ) состоявшегося в период с 29 сентября по 12 октября 2021 года для получения комментариев и предложений государств-членов до 27 октября 2021 года.

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

город Нур-Султан, 22 октября 2021 г.



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

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (АӨСШК) Хатшылығы АӨСШК мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіре отырып, 2021 жылғы 27 қазанға дейін мүше мемлекеттердің түсіндірмелері мен ұсыныстарын алу үшін 2021 жылғы 29 қыркүйек пен 12 қазан аралығында өткен Аға лауазымды тұлғалар комитеті (АЛТК) отырысы хаттамасының жобасын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

*Қосымша:
аталған 7 п.*

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

Нұр-Сұлтан қаласы, 2021 жылғы 22 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, 11 and 12 October 2021
(online and hybrid format)**

The meeting of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) was held in an online format on 29 September and 8 October 2021, and in Nur-Sultan in a hybrid format on 11 and 12 October 2021. H.E. Mr. Shakhrat Nuryshev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, chaired the session on 29 September. Mr. Talgat Kaliyev, Ambassador-at-Large, Special Representative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Afghanistan, chaired the sessions on 8, 11 and 12 October 2021.

The agenda (SOC/2021-II/Agenda/1), decisions taken (SOC/2021-II/DEC/1 of 29 September 2021, SOC/2021-II/DEC/2 and SOC/2021-II/DEC/3 of 8 October 2021 and SOC/2021-II/DEC/4 of 12 October 2021), draft documents recommended for adoption by the Ministerial Meeting and the list of participants of the meeting were circulated to the Member States separately and are available on the Secretariat website.

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. He noted on 29 September that 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 of 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 Observers or partner organizations to address the Meeting.

The Chair 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.

The Secretariat provided information on the requests. The CICA Executive Director announced the list of those who requested to make oral presentations or distribute written statements.

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.

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

The Chair 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 consensus was achieved on the aforementioned two paragraphs and 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 (MM/2021/DRAFT/4 of 29 September 2021).

6. Draft Regulations of the CICA Think Tank Forum

The Chair 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 Chair 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 (SOC/2021-II/DRAFT/1/Rev.2 of 27 September 2021).

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

The Chair 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 (MM/2021/DRAFT/2/Rev.1 of 29 September 2021).

8. Information about the draft Regulations of the CICA Fund

The Chair 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 2021.

The Chair 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.

9. Any other business

- "30 Years of CICA" Anniversary Medal

The Chair 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" (SOC/2021-II/DRAFT/2 of 8 September 2021),

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.

- **Approval of India as a new co-coordinator of CBMs in the human dimension and amendment of the List of CBM coordinating and co-coordinating countries**

At the session on 8 October 2021, the Chair took up under the agenda item "Any other business" an issue recommended by the SWG at its meeting on 6 October 2021. The Chair noted that India had volunteered to take up the role of a co-coordinator of CBM implementation in the human dimension and had announced its intention at the SWG and communicated it in writing to the Secretariat. The Chair supported the SWG recommendation to the SOC to approve India as a new co-coordinator in the human dimension.

Decision: The SOC approved India as a co-coordinating country for implementing confidence building measures (CBMs) in the human dimension (SOC/2021-II/DEC/2 of 8 October 2021).

Decision: The SOC approved the amended List of coordinating and co-coordinating countries for implementing CBMs under priority areas of CICA dimensions (SOC/2021-II/DEC/3 of 8 October 2021).

- **Other issues**

At the session on 8 October, the Chair announced that the silence procedure on the SOC decision on the Regulations of the CICA Think Tank Forum with the deadline of 7 October 2021, had not been broken. The decision was therefore adopted and it was circulated to all Member States as document SOC/2021/DEC/2 of 7 October 2021.

The Chair informed the SOC that the Member States gave their consent to the following Observers and Guests to address the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting: Belarus, OSCE, League of Arab States and Economic Cooperation Organization. In addition, a request for an address by Turkmenistan had been sent to all Member States with the deadline for any objections until 11 October noon Nur-Sultan time. The silence procedure on the request for the participation of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) at the Ministerial Meeting had been broken.

4. Draft declaration of the 6th CICA Ministerial Meeting

The draft declaration of the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting was discussed and drafted by the SOC at its sessions on 29 September and 8, 11 and 12 October 2021. On 29 September, the Chair stressed that the SWG had held lengthy deliberations on the draft Ministerial Declaration. The Chairmanship was originally 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. At each following meeting, the Chair urged 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. In the course of discussions, the Chair regularly called on all Member States to uphold the principle of consensus and to propose alternative formulations for texts which did not enjoy consensus. The Chairmanship also reminded the SOC that between sessions it was holding intensive bilateral consultations with all concerned Member States and was taking all possible efforts to satisfy all views and achieve consensus.

At the session on 29 September 2021, the SOC considered the draft declaration as contained in document MM/2021/DRAFT/3/Rev.5 of 27 September of 2021, did not complete consideration of the document and decided to hold an additional SWG meeting on 6 September and resume the SOC meeting on 8 October 2021. At the sessions on 8, 11 and 12 October 2021, the SOC continued consideration of the draft declaration as contained in document MM/2021/DRAFT/3/Rev.6 of 4 October 2021. The last distributed version of the draft declaration is contained in the podium version of the draft as circulated to all Member States on 11 October after the SOC session by Secretariat Note No. 17-1/679.

The SOC did not achieve consensus on the text of the draft declaration as a result of the lack of agreement on some paragraphs. Different views were expressed by two Member States on the inclusion of the phrase “as well as building a community of shared future for mankind” and on various alternative formulations of this phrase in paragraph 4 related to the promotion of multilateral dialogue and cooperation and building international relationship. Diverging views of several Member States on some elements of paragraphs 15, 17 and 18 related to data protection and Global Initiative on Data Security, to the issue of traceability of sources of COVID-19 and to the Global Development Initiative, respectively, prevented the SOC from agreeing on these paragraphs. Differences in positions of several Member States on the paragraph related to the situation in the Middle East, including some Member States’ reluctance to agree on the entire text of the declaration without a text on this issue, made it impossible for the SOC to achieve consensus on various versions of this paragraph and, hence, on the entire draft declaration.

Decision: The SOC took note of the intention of the Chairmanship to issue its statement on the outcomes of lengthy negotiations and consultations on the draft Declaration of the Sixth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs (SOC/2021-II/DEC/4 of 12 October 2021).

The Statement by the Chairmanship on the Sixth Meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs was issued on 12 October 2021 as document MM/2021/CHAIR/1.