



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

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

№SOC/OI/1504

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 the Report by the CICA Secretary General on activities of the CICA Secretariat in 2022, which will be presented at the Senior Officials Committee meeting on 14 December 2022.

*Enclosure:
as stated, on 9 pp.*

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

Astana, 7 December 2022



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



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*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 9 лл.*

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь препроводить Доклад Генерального секретаря СВМДА о деятельности Секретариата СВМДА в 2022 году, который будет представлен на заседании Комитета старших должностных лиц 14 декабря 2022 года.

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

город Астана, 7 декабря 2022 г.



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

*Қосымша:
аталған 9 нп.*

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (Азия Кеңесінің) Хатшылығы Азия Кеңесінің мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіре отырып, 2022 жылғы 14 желтоқсанда Аға лауазымды тұлғалар комитетінің отырысында ұсыну үшін Азия Кеңесі Бас хатшысының Азия Кеңесі Хатшылығының 2022 жылғы қызметі туралы баяндамасын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

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

Астана қаласы, 2022 жылғы 7 желтоқсан

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



Secretariat

**Report by the CICA Secretary General
on activities of the CICA Secretariat in 2022**

The Secretary General expresses appreciation to the CICA Chair and all Member States for the ever productive work during the year 2022, successful conclusion of the first two-year term of the current Kazakhstan Chairmanship and laying down a solid basis for the next two years, as evident from the report by the Chair on CICA achievements in 2020-2022.

In 2022, the Secretariat focused mainly on two strategic tasks. These were substantive preparation and organizational support of the Sixth CICA Summit in Astana on 12-13 October 2022, and broad range of activities to mark the 30th CICA Anniversary.

Throughout the year, the Secretariat provided continuous support to the Chair and Member States in drafting the outcome documents of the Summit and coordinated certain administrative, financial and protocol aspects of the Summit. The Secretariat is encouraged by the success of the Summit and its historic decisions, including on the launch of CICA transformation into a full-fledged international organization.

In support of the Chairmanship's strategic goal of CICA transformation, the Secretariat assisted the Chair in the development of the concept of transformation, in its discussion with all Member States and preparation of an initial draft of a Summit outcome document on transformation on the basis of views of all Member States.

To assist the Chairmanship in launching the transformation, the Head of the Secretariat held a number of bilateral consultations with representatives of Member States. Within 11 months of 2022, he held about 120 meetings with the Heads of States, foreign ministers, senior officials, heads of international

organizations, diplomatic missions and think tanks of CICA Member States, Observers and Partner Organizations.

During the reporting period, the Head of the Secretariat made 25 working visits almost to all CICA Member States, including Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Russia, Thailand, Türkiye, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam.

In order to reach this strategic goal, and in preparation of the Sixth Summit, the Secretariat assisted the Chairmanship in holding an Informal Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly (New York, 21 September), three meetings of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) and five Special Working Group (SWG) meetings both online and offline (not counting SWG and SOC meetings of 12 and 14 December 2022), as well as five Specialized Meetings and one Expert Meeting.

The Secretariat also assisted the Chairmanship in continuing the practice of thematic discussions at the SOC meetings, including those at the March meeting of the SOC on the concept of CICA transformation and the June SOC meeting on review of implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs).

Following the Summit, a preliminary work to implement its decisions has already started. First, in accordance with the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation a road map of necessary measures in the transformation process should be developed in 2023. Second, the Secretariat is currently working on necessary amendments to relevant CICA documents as tasked by the Sixth Summit, and some proposals have already been submitted to this SOC meeting. Third, the Secretariat will assist the Chairmanship and Member States in launching the work in the framework of the newly established CICA Fund, including roll-out of CICA project activities.

The Secretariat continued performing its regular tasks and functions. Significant efforts were made to organize annual meetings of CICA advisory bodies. There were six such meetings in total.

The Board of the CICA Business Council held two meetings in preparation for the 5th CICA Business Council and 7th Business Forum, which were held on the sidelines of the Astana Finance Days in June and were dedicated to the

digitalization of business processes for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and food security. More than 150 delegates from 15 Member States and Partner Organizations have joined the events.

The CICA Youth Council was held in a hybrid format in Astana in July with offsite tour to Burabai resort. It gathered representatives of youth movements from 16 Member States and CICA Partner Organizations, accumulating the best ideas and knowledge of the youth and sharing advantageous practices in youth policies.

The 10th CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF) has been held just recently. Representatives of analytical centers and academia had discussions on the topic “Sustainable security in Asia in a period of turbulence and transformation: challenges and vision”. During the two-days hybrid format meeting, the participants considered prospects of cooperation in food security, energy security, green transformation of economies and strengthening the intra-regional connectivity, as well as responses to the current challenges and prospects for further development within the CICA region.

In total, there were 24 meetings of CICA governing, working, specialized and advisory bodies. The efforts to launch the work of the Council of Eminent Persons (CEP) continued as well.

Therefore, the entire institutional capacity of CICA has been employed this year which can be attributed to CICA’s considerable convening power, successful institutional and operational capabilities.

The Secretariat continued to provide full support to the Member States in implementation of CBMs in accordance with the CICA Catalogue of CBMs updated at the Sixth Ministerial Meeting, the General Guidelines for Conducting Events on Implementation of CICA CBMs, adopted by the SOC in June 2021, and the Annual CICA Plan of Implementation of CBMs for 2022.

In 2022, 18 events were organized in total, though in 2021, the number had been at 34. Several events were postponed due to unsafe epidemiological situation or technical reasons. It should also be noted that this year the attention of the Member States was mostly concentrated on the Sixth CICA Summit. This difference can also be attributed to a slightly corrected method of

categorizing various CICA activities introduced this year, namely counting the meetings of CICA governing, working and advisory bodies separately from CBM activities.

In 2022, most events (7 in total) were conducted in the new challenges and threats dimension. Four events were organized by Türkiye, in capacity of Coordinator in the priority area of new challenges and threats (general). Two of them were in an offline mode - at the CICA Headquarters and in Ankara. Also, India held a webinar in the area of “Epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals” on the role of Ayurveda, Yoga and other systems of traditional medicine. Russia as Coordinator of the priority area “Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)” organized the workshop on “Sustainable and secure development of the internet”. Iran held an online seminar as Coordinator of the priority area “Combating illicit drugs” on “Maintenance treatment for opiates use disorders”.

This year, 5 events were held under the economic dimension (16 events in 2021). Tajikistan, as Coordinator of the “Tourism” priority area, has held two events in an online format for the experts and heads of tourism departments. Kazakhstan held a round table dedicated to strengthening cooperation in the priority area “Information technologies”. Thailand, as Co-coordinator in the priority area “Development of SMEs”, conducted a two-week online workshop on positive application of the “Sufficiency economy philosophy”. China, in capacity of Coordinator in the priority area “Agriculture”, organized a two-day seminar on poverty alleviation models.

In the environmental dimension 5 events were organized (6 in 2021). China organized two events, one as Co-coordinator of the area “Environment protection” on green and low-carbon development of the cities and another one in the area of “Natural disaster management” on mine safety risk prevention and control. Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan organized the joint exercise on alerting duty services of CICA Member States on natural emergency situation in the priority area of “Natural disaster management”. Thailand, as Coordinator of the priority area “Sustainable development”, organized a two-week International training course on “Sustainable waste management in circular economy”. Bangladesh, as Co-coordinator of the area “Natural disaster management”, has been compiling an “E-publication on disaster risk reduction (DRR)”, that consists of inputs from CICA Member States.

In the military-political dimension, Kazakhstan, in capacity of Coordinator, has organized the traditional annual two-day offline seminar in Astana and Almaty.

Unlike in 2021 (2 activities), no events were held within the human dimension.

The Secretary General expresses deep appreciation to Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, China, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, Thailand, Tajikistan, Russia and India for organizing events under the CICA Plan of Implementation of CBMs for 2022 as well as to all Member States for active participation and making valuable contribution to these events towards strengthening peace and security in Asia.

The Secretariat has been facilitating work by Coordinators and Co-coordinators on updating the Concept Papers and Action Plans in priority areas of interaction within CICA dimensions. As a result, in 2022, the SOC adopted Concept Papers in 5 priority areas (Development of SMEs, Finance, Security of and in the use of ICTs, Development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors, Human Dimension). Concept Papers in 2 areas (Tourism, Agriculture) were considered and submitted for approval to the SWG and SOC meetings of 12 and 14 December 2022, Concept Papers in 5 areas are in progress (Military-Political Dimension, New challenges and threats (general), Epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals, Sustainable development, Environment protection). There was no progress in updating 3 Concept Papers this year (Combating illicit drugs, Energy security, Information technology). Concept Papers in 3 areas still need to be adopted (Combating terrorism, Natural disaster management, Trade and investment). The latter area does not yet have a coordinating country. In 2022, Türkiye and Kyrgyzstan became Co-coordinators in this area.

In 2022, the CICA Secretariat proposed to the Chairmanship and the Member States to hold a periodic review of implementation of CICA CBMs envisaged in paragraph 1.8 of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs. The first such review was held at the SOC meeting in June 2022 and the Secretariat provided substantive support in its preparation, including detailed analysis of implementation of CBMs in the Economic Dimension and a food-for-thought paper on modalities of CBM implementation. As a result of the review, the Member States tasked the Secretariat with preparing proposals on further improvement of modalities of CBM implementation. The proposals of the Secretariat will soon be presented to Member States within the CICA transformation process.

An important part of Secretariat activities was strengthening and widening of CICA external relations. At the request of the Chair, the Secretariat provided consultative assistance to the State of Kuwait on procedures to join CICA as a Member State, which were successfully finalized at the Sixth CICA Summit.

Following SOC approval in December 2021, the Secretariat has been working on establishment of ties with the EEU and ASEAN. As a result, the Secretariat signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Eurasian Economic Commission of the Eurasian Economic Union on the sidelines of the Sixth CICA Summit, what led to enlargement of CICA's external relations. The CICA Secretariat held preliminary consultations with ASEAN and Cambodia (the ASEAN Chair in 2022) and prepared a draft concept paper on establishing ties with ASEAN, which was conveyed through Cambodia for ASEAN's consideration.

In the course of 2022, the Head of the Secretariat participated in the High-Level International Conference "Regional cooperation of Central Asian countries within the framework of the Joint Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" (Tashkent, March), Second Antalya Diplomacy Forum (Antalya, Türkiye, March), Ninth Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development hosted by ESCAP (Bangkok, March), Eurasian Economic Forum (Bishkek, May), St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (online, June), Eleventh Plenary Session of TurkPA (Cholpon-Ata, Kyrgyzstan, June), Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, September), 77th session of the UN General Assembly (New York, September), Amman Security Colloquium (Amman, November), and the Eighth SCO RATS International Scientific and Practical Conference (Tashkent, November).

The Deputy Executive Director, professional personnel and experts of the CICA Secretariat supported the Head of the Secretariat in his working visits and bilateral meetings and participation in high-level international conferences.

In addition, the Deputy Executive Director participated in the roundtable Pertinent Issues of Women, Peace and Security in Central Asia (Astana, April), Second High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development" 2018-2028 (Dushanbe, June), Plenary Session of the Al-Farabi-Iqbal International Forum (Almaty, May),

round table “Diplomatic Service of Kazakhstan: Historical Legacy & Modernity” (Astana, November), and joined the organizing committee of the International Prize “We are Together” (Moscow, December).

Furthermore, a number of events were attended by experts and professional personnel on behalf of the Secretariat, such as the UN event “Launch of Early Warning Counter-Terrorism Network for Central Asia” (Istanbul, June), Arab Thought Forum "Security Challenges in Asia and the Role of CICA in Enhancing Collective Security in Asia (Amman, July), 11th Annual “INTERPA” Conference on digitalization of policing (Dhaka, September), High-Level International Conference on “International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists” (Dushanbe, October), 2022 OSCE Mediterranean Conference on advancing security and co-operation in the Mediterranean (Amman, October).

A major part of Secretariat’s efforts this year was directed at the celebration of the 30th CICA Anniversary, which allowed to significantly raise CICA’s visibility and profile. With financial and material support from the Chairmanship and certain Member States, the Secretariat has implemented a broad range of anniversary projects.

The Secretariat compiled and published “CICA Chronicle: for the Sake of Interaction and Cooperation”, “Fairy Tales of Asia” and “Ecotourism Guidebook of the CICA Region”. 22 Member States provided input to the Fairy Tales and 20 – to the Ecotourism Guidebook, and both publications were issued in two CICA working languages. All of these books were presented to CICA leaders during the Sixth Summit and distributed afterwards to all Member States.

By the decision of the SOC a special Anniversary Medal was established for the outstanding services and valuable contribution to strengthening and developing the CICA process. The SOC and the Chairmanship has approved in total 323 nominees for awarding with the Medal or citation of both classes. Moreover, such memorable events as exhibition “Forum of Interaction and Trust”, planting of 30 sakura seedlings at the CICA Alley, a 30-km bicycle tour and football tournament were organized in Astana. A commemorative stamp and coin were produced.

Apart from promotional work at the Sixth CICA Summit and the 30th Anniversary year, the Secretariat further stepped up its regular efforts to raise CICA's presence and coverage of its activities in the media. This year about 50 unique materials were published on CICA and CICA related issues - articles and interviews of the leadership of the Foreign Ministry of Kazakhstan, CICA Secretary General, as well as experts of the Secretariat, all of which can be found on the CICA website.

Interviews of the Head of the CICA Secretariat were published or broadcast in such outlets as "The Jordan News", "Roya News" (Jordan), "Korea Herald", "Dunyo" information agency (Uzbekistan), "NhanDan" news agency (Viet Nam), "TV9 Hindi" and "Jadeed In-Dinon" TV channels (India), "Society" magazine (Austria), "The Diplomat" magazine (Washington), "The Eurasian" magazine (Kazakhstan), "CGTV" news channel and "Xinhua" news agency (China), "Anadolu" information agency (Türkiye), as well as a number of interviews on the Kazakh TV channels "Kazakhstan" and "Khabar". In addition, the outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit were reflected in more than 100 materials published in the international media, a series of related briefings by the Secretary General were held, moreover the team of "Khabar" TV channel jointly with the MFA of Kazakhstan and the CICA Secretariat created a documentary "On the way of confidence" ("Сенім жолында").

Newsletter "The Voice of Asia: CICA Digest" is now published quarterly to inform Member States about activities of CICA and its Secretariat. As part of modernization of the CICA website launched in 2021, the Secretariat introduced online registration for meetings that had already been used for the Sixth Summit (in a test mode), as well as for the meetings of the SWG and SOC in December 2022. The Secretariat hopes to replicate this convenient method for most of CICA events in the future. The presence of the CICA Secretariat in the most popular social networks - Facebook, Twitter and Instagram - has been systematically increasing, and the number of its followers has raised noticeably since 1 January 2022 (Instagram - almost 150%, Twitter - 75% and Facebook - 30%).

On management related issues, the Secretariat expresses deep appreciation to Kazakhstan, China, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Türkiye, Israel and Tajikistan for their voluntary contributions to the CICA budget. The Secretary General kindly invites other Member States to follow the example of those partners who

demonstrate their commitment to the principles and goals of the CICA family through regular contribution of financial resources.

In 2022, following the scheduled rotation, the Secretariat welcomed two new Senior Officers from Kazakhstan. The Secretary General hereby wishes to reiterate his call on all Member States, in particular to those who did not yet do that in the past, to contribute human resources to the Secretariat by secondment of professional personnel. This will not only strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat to support Member States in CBM implementation, in the work of CICA governing and advisory bodies, and in the process of CICA transformation, but will also increase the ownership and engagement of Member States in all CICA activities and broaden geographic representation in the Secretariat. Furthermore, the Secretariat still has two open positions of experts for hiring on the competitive and contractual basis, and recommendation of candidates from Member States are welcome.

The Secretariat will continue to improve its human resources management for the benefit of all Member States and in line with best international practice applicable for CICA. This is particularly important in light of the gradual transformation of CICA into a full-fledged regional international organization.

In implementation of the task given by the Sixth CICA Summit, the Secretary General has submitted to the 14 December meeting of the SOC a proposal only on renaming certain positions in the Staff Matrix of the Secretariat. Proposals on transformation related measures in the area of human resources management will be submitted in due course.

Finally, by the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the host country will provide a new separate building for the CICA Headquarters, which will be built in Astana in the near future.

In conclusion, the Secretary General reassures the SOC that the Secretariat will continue to strengthen its efforts to ensure support of highest professional standards to the Chairmanship and all Member States in achieving CICA objectives.