

**National Statement by Ambassador of Pakistan to Azerbaijan, H.E. Qasim
Mohiuddin During the Seventh Summit of the Conference on Interaction and
Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)
15 OCTOBER 2026**

Honorable President Mr. Ilham Aliyev, Distinguished Heads of State and Government, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I congratulate Honorable President Mr. Ilham Aliyev and the Government and people of brotherly Azerbaijan on hosting this important Summit and thank them for their gracious hospitality.

We meet at a defining moment for Asia. Our continent is home to the majority of humanity, some of the world's fastest-growing economies, ancient civilizations and enormous human potential. Yet, it also remains confronted by unresolved disputes, armed conflicts, terrorism, economic uncertainty, climate change and widening geopolitical fault lines.

The choice before us is clear: an Asia divided by confrontation, or an Asia connected by cooperation.

Pakistan has always chosen peace and cooperation in line with the principles of our foreign policy. We believe that lasting peace cannot be built through coercion, unilateralism, or exclusion. It must rest on dialogue, mutual respect, sovereign equality, peaceful settlement of disputes and faithful adherence to the UN Charter and international law.

This is precisely why CICA matters. For more than three decades, CICA Process has brought together countries with diverse political systems, cultures, and perspectives around a simple but powerful conviction: security is strengthened when confidence replaces suspicion and dialogue replaces confrontation.

Pakistan remains committed to strengthening CICA which is capable of advancing our shared aspirations for peace, security and prosperity.

Excellencies,

At a time of growing geopolitical tensions, we must rediscover the power of diplomacy. Pakistan has sought to translate this conviction into action.

During our Presidency of the United Nations Security Council in July 2025, the Council unanimously adopted Pakistan-sponsored Resolution 2788 on strengthening mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

It reaffirmed the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and called for their effective implementation, including through peaceful settlement of disputes, preventive diplomacy, and implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

Pakistan has also demonstrated that commitment in practice, including through our efforts to facilitate dialogue and mediation between Iran and the United States.

Our conviction is simple: mediation is not a sign of weakness. Dialogue is not a concession. The greatest victory of diplomacy is a war that never has to be fought.

The same principle must apply to longstanding disputes. Durable peace in South Asia remains impossible without a just and peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Excellencies,

Terrorism remains a grave threat to our common security. Pakistan has made enormous sacrifices in combating this scourge. We continue to confront terrorist groups, including those operating from Afghan soil with external support.

Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations must be rejected unequivocally everywhere. This makes it all the more important that Afghanistan's territory must not be allowed to be used again by terrorists against Pakistan or any other country.

Our security is also increasingly shaped by economic vulnerabilities, food and energy insecurity, climate change, technological divides, and disruptions in global supply chains. These interconnected challenges require cooperation, not competition. Asia must therefore invest in connectivity rather than containment.

Pakistan's location at the crossroads of South, Central and West Asia makes regional connectivity central to our vision of shared prosperity.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship manifestation of this vision. Together with broader transport, energy, trade and digital networks, such initiatives can transform geography from a source of rivalry into an instrument of shared prosperity.

Excellencies,

The future of Asia cannot be secured by any country acting alone. Let us build an Asia where disputes are settled peacefully; sovereignty and international law are respected; terrorism finds no sanctuary; confidence replaces mistrust; and connectivity creates opportunity and prosperity.

Pakistan stands ready to work with CICA member states to turn that vision into reality – an Asia at peace with itself, connected within itself, and prosperous together.

I thank you.