

**Concept paper on
implementation of CICA Confidence Building Measures
in the area of the development of Small and Medium Enterprises
for 2021-2023**

Amid the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent quarantine restrictions, governments all around the world are taking unprecedented measures to support the economy and stimulate business activity. In these conditions, coordinated efforts by all parties concerned are becoming more and more urgent in order to ensure swift and sustainable post-pandemic recovery.

CICA, being one of the largest Eurasian platforms for multilateral cooperation, possesses the necessary potential to develop collaboration in the field of the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

As a CICA coordinator for implementing Confidence Building Measures in the economic dimension, Russia proposes to explore the following vectors of cooperation in the area of SMEs for the period 2021 -2023:

1. Information sharing on the opportunities and needs for developing cooperation among SMEs in the CICA region.
2. Presentation of SMEs projects with the view of finding business partners and funding in CICA Member States.
3. Providing assistance to the Member States' SMEs that localize their production in other CICA countries, including via their integration into local supply chains.
4. Developing specialized cooperation in the field of technology, innovation and digitalization:
 - a. Launching programs, services and digital platforms for export cooperation or implementing the already existing information systems aimed at supporting foreign economic activities;
 - b. Creating international online subcontracting platforms for representatives of large industrial enterprises and SMEs in the CICA Member States; considering the possibility of subcontracting on the basis of existing information systems aimed at supporting foreign economic activities.

5. Reviewing best corporate practices for the implementation and application of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Standards including in terms of working with suppliers.

6. Exchanging views on existing and promising corporate practices of cooperation between large businesses and SMEs in terms of implementation of programs for the SMEs support and development.

7. Presentation of SMEs' projects in the fields of interest of CICA Member States including medicine, education, agriculture, tourism, ecology, energy with the view of finding new partners.