



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

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

№SWG/569

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 9 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 the Proposals by the Secretary General on Further Improvement of Modalities of CBM Implementation for presentation at the Special Working Group meeting on 16 May 2023.

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

Astana, 13 May 2023



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



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№SWG/569

*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 9 л.*

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь препроводить Предложения Генерального секретаря по дальнейшему совершенствованию модальностей реализации мер доверия для представления на заседании Специальной рабочей группы 16 мая 2023 года.

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

город Астана, 13 мая 2023 г.



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

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (Азия Кеңесінің) Хатшылығы Азия Кеңесінің мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіреді және 2023 жылғы 16 мамырда Арнаулы жұмыс тобының отырысында ұсыну үшін Сенім шараларын іске асыру әдістерін одан әрі жетілдіру бойынша Бас хатшының ұсыныстарын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

Қосымша:
аталған, 9 п.

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

Астана қаласы, 2023 жылғы 13 мамыр

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



Secretariat

Proposals by the Secretary General on Further Improvement of Modalities of CBM Implementation

Introduction

The attached proposals by the Secretary General are submitted pursuant to the task set by the SOC on 15 June 2022 following the first regular review of implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs): *“The SOC ... tasked the Secretariat with making proposals on further improvement of modalities of CBM implementation for consideration by the Member States.”*

In implementation of the task set by the Sixth CICA Summit in the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation of 13 October 2022:

“6. The Member States will determine, when and as appropriate, the details of the transformation process, including criteria for membership, and, with a view to taking a meaningful practical step to that end, we request the Chairmanship to make proposals in 2023, with the assistance of the Secretary General and in close consultation with Member States, on a road map of necessary measures in the transformation process for consideration by the Member States”,

the Secretary General submitted proposals on improvement of modalities of CBM implementation as part of his contribution to the draft road map for CICA transformation in a summarized way (document SOC/2023-I/CHAIR/2 of 7 April 2023, cluster 2, pages 4-5).

At the meeting on 19 April 2023, the SOC *“concluded that further improvement of modalities of CBM implementation will be discussed within the CICA transformation process.”*

Background

These proposals are based on suggestions and concerns expressed by Member States at the SOC meeting on 15 June 2022 (minutes of this SOC meeting are contained in document SOC/2022-II/INF/2/Rev.1 of 28 July 2022), as well as at the SOC meeting on 19 April 2023. The proposals also represent a follow-up to suggestions and ideas put forward by the Secretariat in two earlier papers:

1. *Food for thought paper “Proposal by the CICA Secretariat to develop general guidelines for conducting events on implementation of CICA confidence building measures and other forward-looking ideas” of 19 May 2021 and*
2. *Food for thought paper on modalities for implementation of confidence building measures (document SOC/2022-II/SEC/2 of 21 May 2022).*

Summary of proposals

Brief and non-exhaustive list of proposed measures:

- Functions of coordinators and co-coordinators: Codification of the current practice, determining their roles and establishing clear terms of reference, introducing the possibility to develop and present recommendations within their priority areas as a basis for decisions by CICA governing bodies.
- Procedure and duration of appointment of coordinators and co-coordinators: Recommending that candidate countries designate a fixed term of 2 to 4 years, with the possibility of extension and early termination.
- Concept papers and action plans: Determining the status, goals and requirements for concept papers and action plans, and optimizing the mechanism for their development, approval and updating.
- Reflecting the Secretariat's de facto existing substantive, expert and analytical assistance to the Member States in implementing CBMs and developing concept papers.

Goals and expected results: Codification and further improving *modi operandi* and effectiveness of CBM implementation and thereby strengthening the practical impact of CICA's core operational activities.

Proposed form of implementation: Consolidation, further developing and updating all existing modalities, procedures, current practices, experience gained and new approaches into one single framework document on general modalities and mechanisms of CBM implementation.

This document would be adopted by the Ministerial Council and would integrate, update and supersede Chapter 3 of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs (without reopening the Catalogue) which was agreed in 2007.

The document would authorize the SOC to improve general modalities contained in it and establish any specific modalities as necessary (such as the General Guidelines for Conducting Events on Implementation of CICA CBMs adopted by the SOC on 23 June 2021).

Thereby the CICA Catalogue of CBMs would retain its role as the main substantive document governing the core operational activities of CICA and containing the complete list of CICA CBMs.

Suggested timelines: CICA transformation is defined as a gradual, incremental and consensus-based negotiations process. The SOC agreed to engage in more detailed discussion of all elements of the draft Road Map for CICA Transformation (RMT), including at the working and expert level. Good progress has already been achieved in the discussion of CBM implementation modalities since 2021, including at the SOC review meeting on 15 June 2022.

It is therefore proposed that this particular cluster of the draft RMT be considered within a short-term timeframe: 2023-2024, and negotiations on the draft ministerial framework document could start without delay, with a view to its adoption as soon as feasible after the endorsement of the RMT at the informal ministerial meeting on 21 September 2023.

Attachment: Proposals by the Secretary General in the form of a draft Ministerial Council decision on modalities of CBM implementation.

DRAFT DECISION OF THE CICA MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

**Modalities of Implementation
of CICA Confidence Building Measures**

The Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

Reaffirming that

- the confidence building measures (CBMs) agreed in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures are recommendatory in nature and implemented on a gradual and voluntary basis,
- any Member State may choose to implement any CBM on bilateral or multilateral basis, where feasible and appropriate,
- the CBMs selected by Member States for implementation should be pursued in good faith and to the full extent possible,
- CICA CBMs are without prejudice to other CBMs, security agreements and/or arrangements on arms control and disarmament, to which the Member States are parties, and these measures will not affect the rights and obligations under these agreements and/or arrangements, and
- CICA CBMs do not prevent the Member States from adopting other CBMs among themselves or with other states,

Have adopted the following general modalities for implementation of measures agreed in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

Chapter 1. Terms of Reference of Coordinators and Co-coordinators

Functions

1.1 Any Member State may wish to express its interest to implementation of CBMs in a specific priority area by offering itself as a Coordinator or Co-coordinator in that area. This is without prejudice to the right of other Member States to proactively implement or voluntarily initiate any activity under the Catalogue of CBMs.

1.2 The Coordinator shall exercise the leading role in the promotion of implementation of CBMs in the assigned priority area, shall draft a concept paper on cooperation in that priority area and will have a special role within the mechanism of regular review of CBM implementation.

1.3 The Member State completing the duties of Coordinator shall issue a report to all Member States summarizing progress achieved in CBM implementation in the assigned priority area during its tenure, which may also contain forward-looking recommendations.

1.4 The Co-coordinators shall support the Coordinator in its work, including in the drafting of the concept paper. The Coordinator and Co-coordinators shall work in close cooperation with each other and the Secretariat.

1.5 The Coordinator and Co-coordinators may, individually or together, submit any recommendations for consideration and decision-making by the CICA Member States pertaining to the priority area that they coordinate. Such recommendations will be submitted through the CICA Chairmanship to the relevant CICA governing body according to the established decision-making procedures.

1.6 The Coordinator and Co-coordinators may prepare an action plan to facilitate practical implementation of the concept paper in the assigned priority area.

1.7 The Coordinator and Co-coordinators, in consultation with the CICA Chairmanship and with the assistance of the Secretariat, may convene and

organize CICA expert meetings for any purpose pertaining to implementation of their functions and requiring consultations with all Member States.

1.8 The Coordinator, Co-coordinators or the Secretariat may solicit expert, scientific and professional contributions from Member States and relevant CICA advisory bodies, such as the Business Council, Youth Council, Think Tank Forum and, through the CICA Chairmanship, the Council Eminent Persons, as necessary for appropriate implementation of CICA CBMs.

Appointment and extension

1.9 The Coordinators and Co-coordinators shall be appointed by the Senior Officials Committee (SOC). As a rule, there will be one Coordinator per priority area and there will be no limit to the number of Co-coordinators per priority area.

1.10 A Member State intending to assume the role of Coordinator or Co-coordinator in a specific priority area shall inform all CICA Member States about its intention through the CICA Chairmanship and the Secretariat in writing, indicating the proposed tenure, which should be not less than two and not more than four years.

1.11 In the event of absence of a Coordinator in a priority area, one of the Co-coordinators in that area may temporarily take up the role of Coordinator upon consent of the other Co-Coordinators in the same area until a new Coordinator is appointed.

1.12 Any Coordinator or Co-coordinator may extend its term of service for a certain period subject to approval by the SOC and may voluntarily terminate its term at any time. The request for extension or the notice of early termination must be sent to all Member States through the Secretariat sufficiently in advance of the expiration of the current tenure or the termination of duties.

Chapter 2. Concept papers and action plans in priority areas

Concept papers

2.1 To facilitate implementation of CICA CBMs, the Member States will develop, approve and regularly update concept papers on cooperation in specific priority areas of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs, which shall serve as guidelines for voluntary implementation of respective CBMs.

2.2 The concept paper should as a rule provide, within the respective priority area, a general framework and main directions for cooperation among CICA Member States, as well as rationale, background, aims, objectives and approaches to the implementation of related CBMs. The document should also propose specific thematic areas or issues to address under certain CBMs, as well as any other guidance to facilitate and promote voluntary implementation of CBMs. The concept papers may also suggest, within agreed CBMs, new spheres or forms of cooperation, types of activity or ways to further develop and strengthen CICA activities.

2.3 The draft concept paper shall be prepared by the respective Coordinator in consultation with the Co-coordinators and, if needed, with the expert assistance of the Secretariat.

2.4 The concept papers shall be approved by the SOC following consideration by all Member States by the means of written communication through the Secretariat and/or at CICA expert meetings, Special Working Group (SWG) meetings or SOC meetings.

2.5 In the event of the prolongation of consideration by the Member States beyond six months since the issuance of the first draft, the Coordinator shall convene CICA expert meetings to facilitate consultations and finalize the document as soon as possible.

2.6 The concept paper should specify its applicability period, preferably between two and four years, which may coincide with the term of the respective Coordinator. The Coordinator shall ensure that the concept paper is always up to date with current realities and its applicability period extended on time before expiration.

2.7 Any new Coordinator shall propose a new or an updated concept paper at the time of its application for coordinatorship or not later than three months following the appointment as Coordinator.

Action plans

2.8 An action plan to facilitate practical implementation of objectives, approaches and initiatives reflected in the concept paper may be elaborated by the Coordinator and Co-coordinators in consultation with and for information of all Member States.

2.9 The action plan should as a rule contain concrete proposals for specific activities, projects, events or any other practical actions, with timelines, organizational modalities and any other useful information, and should be regularly updated by the Coordinator and Co-coordinators.

Chapter 3. Review of CBM implementation

3.1 The Member States will regularly review implementation of CICA CBMs in order to identify the most effective and suitable CBMs for wider implementation in the CICA region and, when necessary, will modify or amend those CBMs or approve new CBMs by consensus.

3.2 To that end, the SOC will hold regular review of implementation of CBMs not less than once a year, with focus on specific dimensions, priority areas or CBMs.

3.3 Within the regular review at the SOC, Member States will analyze and assess CBM implementation activities in the respective priority areas or dimensions, including their practical impact and effectiveness, lessons learned, experience gained and ways of further strengthening implementation.

3.4 The SOC will also review the need to update concept papers and action plans in priority areas, consider inclusion of new CBMs or priority areas in the CICA Catalogue of CBMs or modification of existing CBMs, and take any other necessary actions and decisions pertaining to CBM implementation.

3.5 The Coordinators and Co-coordinators will be expected to make a written contribution in preparation to the SOC review, express their views at the SOC review meeting and take necessary follow-up actions.

Chapter 4. Exchange of information

4.1 The Member States may exchange information within the context of CBMs agreed upon by them. They may also consider submitting this information to the CICA Secretariat for further dissemination among all Member States.

4.2 The Member State receiving information under a CICA CBM for its own use cannot disclose, publish or transfer it to any third party without the consent of the Member States providing such information.

Chapter 5. Final provisions

5.1 This document further develops and supersedes provisions of Chapter 3 "Modalities for implementation of CBMs in the aforementioned priority areas" of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs (as updated in 2021).

5.2 The SOC may amend this document and further improve general modalities of CBM implementation. As necessary, the SOC may decide to establish modalities for specific types of CBMs or specific forms of CBM implementation, such as the SOC General Guidelines for Conducting Events on Implementation of CICA CBMs of 23 June 2021.

5.3 The CICA Secretariat shall provide administrative, organizational and technical support to the Member States in implementation of CBMs, acting as a clearing house for the documents and information provided by the Member States. The Secretariat shall serve as a focal point for facilitating coordination, communication and information exchange among Member States on CBM implementation, shall provide substantive, analytical and expert advice to Member States at their request and may propose specific activities within the framework of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs.