

**Statement by Mr. Sibi George,  
Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs of India  
at Informal CICA Ministerial Council Meeting**

25 September 2025, New York

**Mr Chairman**

**Dear colleagues,**

Namaste and a very good morning to all.

At the outset, I thank the Republic of Azerbaijan for hosting this Informal meeting of CICA Ministerial Council. I bring to you warm greetings of my Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and his best wishes for a successful and productive meeting.

It is a matter of great pride that over the last three decades, CICA has made commendable progress, playing an important role in building confidence between countries on a wide range of issues, elevating itself into a regional international organization.

India believes that the foundational principles of CICA, articulated in the Almaty Act and the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations continue to provide the bedrock for our engagement. Sovereign equality, respect for territorial integrity, and consensus-based decision-making are essential as we navigate the challenges and opportunities of a multipolar Asia and a multipolar world.

As one of the founding Members of CICA, India has actively contributed to endeavours and enhanced interaction across various dimensions. We have been deploying professional diplomats on secondment to the CICA Secretariat for nearly two decades now. This is in tune with India's support for inclusive, consultative and cooperative multilateralism and our fundamental philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*—the world is one family.

India is honoured to serve as the Coordinator of the priority area “Combating Terrorism” under the “New Challenges and Threats” dimension, and we are pleased that the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) has assumed the Chairmanship of the CICA Think Tank Forum for 2026-27. Through its unwavering commitment and leading role in activities across the globe, we are confident that ICWA will effectively contribute to the various activities of CICA.

We are witnessing a moment of great geopolitical churn and uncertainty. Our multilateral institutions need to be representative and fully equipped to address contemporary realities. It is imperative for Asia to champion inclusivity, sustainability, and cooperation. The challenges confronting us today demand collective and coordinated responses.

Terrorism remains the most significant threat to peace and security in Asia. India has consistently advocated for a zero-tolerance approach to terrorism, and the need to hold its perpetrators, supporters and financiers responsible.

Climate change, enhancing connectivity, and increasing the participation of women in our economies, demand collective action. India has reiterated its commitment through our own global initiatives and participation at CICA meetings. We must ensure that our actions are guided by the principles of inclusivity, transparency and mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We should work towards confidence-building measures that actively promote economic cooperation, sustainable development, cultural interaction and people-to-people contacts. This will help to strengthen trade, investment, cooperation in science, technology and human resource development among all the regions of Asia.

As we look back, we thank Kazakhstan for its exemplary leadership. Under the Chairmanship of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, CICA has embarked on an ambitious transformation process.

Embarking on the next chapter of CICA's journey, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to building a peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive Asia.

**Thank you.**

**Jai Hind!**