Concept paper and plan of implementation of the CICA confidence-building measure "Security of and in the use of ICTs" for 2024-2025

1. Background

There is an increasing urgency of taking necessary joint measures by the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) Member States to shape a peaceful and secure ICT environment, reduce risks of conflicts stemming from ICT-related incidents, and exchange experience and best practices in this area.

The issue of security of and in the use of ICTs was enshrined in the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures, adopted at the CICA Ministerial meeting (Nur-Sultan, 11-12 October 2021).

During the meeting of the CICA Senior Officials Committee (SOC; online, 8 December 2021), Russia was approved as the coordinator, and China as the co–coordinator of the abovementioned confidence-building measure for 2022-2023.

At the SOC regular meeting (Astana, 22 August 2023), the Russian-Chinese coordinatorship was extended until the end of 2025.

During the period 2022-2023, important political and practical results have been achieved through the joint efforts of CICA Member States. The CICA leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the field of Security of and in the Use of ICTs was adopted (Astana, 13 October 2022), enshrining the main approaches to the theme. Russia held online workshops "Sustainable and Secure Development of the Internet" (24 August 2022) and "Digital Forensics" (2-3 October 2023).

2. Objectives of the confidence-building measure

This confidence-building measure is aimed at developing interaction and strengthening cooperation between the CICA Member States on a wide range of issues of ensuring security of and in the use of ICTs, including:

a)   Promoting open, secure, accessible and peaceful ICT environment in Asia on the basis of mutual respect, strengthening contacts and exchanges, deepening dialogue and cooperation, fighting against threats resulting from the malicious use of ICTs.

b)   Promoting dialogue on confidence-building, stability and risk reduction in the field of security of and in the use of ICTs among CICA Member States.

c)   Recognizing the importance of peaceful use of ICTs by reducing misunderstanding between the CICA Member States, promoting trust and confidence.

d)   Sharing information, best practices and raising awareness in the field of security of and in the use of ICTs to address the threats stemming from the use of ICTs.

e)   Improving cooperation to respond to the criminal use of ICTs based on an internationally agreed legal framework.

3.   Implementation of the confidence-building measure

The CICA Member States shall, on a voluntarily basis, share their approaches and experience, as well as concerns related to security of and in the use of ICTs and enhancing the resilience of Internet connectivity.

4.   Proposed initiatives

1. Workshop on exchanging experience in the field of countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes;

2. Workshop on raising awareness in the field of security of and in the use of ICTs to counter threats in this area.