



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

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

№MIN/1255

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 7 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 herewith a draft summary of proceedings of the Informal Meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council held in New York on 21 September 2023 and to invite Member States to provide their comments, if any, until 31 October 2023.

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

Astana, 23 October 2023



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



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AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

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№MIN/1255

*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 7 л.*

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь настоящим препроводить проект краткого отчета о работе неофициального заседания Совета министров СВМДА, состоявшегося в Нью-Йорке 21 сентября 2023 года, и предложить государствам-членам представить свои комментарии, если таковые имеются, до 31 октября 2023 года.

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

г. Астана, 23 октября 2023 г.



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

Қосымша:
аталған, 7 п.

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (Азия Кеңесінің немесе АӨСШК) Хатшылығы Азия Кеңесіне мүше мемлекеттерге өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіре отырып, 2023 жылғы 21 қыркүйекте Нью-Йоркте өткен АӨСШК Министрлер кеңесінің бейресми отырысының жұмысы туралы қысқаша есептің жобасын жолдайды және мүше мемлекеттерден 2023 жылғы 31 қазанға дейін өз түсініктемелерін ұсынуды сұрайды.

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

Астана қаласы, 2023 жылғы 23 қазан

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



Chairmanship of Kazakhstan

DRAFT SUMMARY* **of the Informal Meeting of the CICA Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs** **New York, 21 September 2023**

The informal meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council (MC) took place on the sidelines of the High-Level Week of the 78th UN General Assembly session in New York on 21 September 2023, 13:00–14:30, at the InterContinental New York Barclay Hotel. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Murat Nurtleu.

The programme of the meeting (document MC/2023/INF/1/Rev.1 of 15 September 2023), the documents adopted (MC/2023/DEC/1 with associated document MC/2023/CHAIR/1/Rev.2, as well as MC/2023/DEC/2 and MC/2023/DEC/3 of 21 September 2023), statements by delegations, list of heads of delegations (MC/2023/INF/3 of 4 October 2023) and other material related to this meeting is available on the CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/index.php?view=page&t=informal-ministerial-council-meeting-21-september-2023>). To obtain access to the restricted part of the website, please contact the CICA Secretariat.

1. Opening

The Chairperson of the MC, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Murat Nurtleu, delivered an opening statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/104523043865168ecf9e1c5.pdf>).

CICA Secretary General H.E. Ambassador Kairat Sarybay delivered opening remarks full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/18136701506513f31b50d49.pdf>), accompanied with slide presentation (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/8057779816513f37d94531.pdf>).

* **Open for comments of Member States until 31 October 2023.**

2. Statements by heads of delegations

The Russian Federation, represented by H.E. Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, welcomed efforts by the Secretariat to mobilize the support for the Road Map for CICA Transformation (RMT), gave a positive assessment to this document which indicates further directions of development of the forum. It was emphasized that the most promising direction of transformation is the creation of a comfortable political and economic environment in Eurasia and deepening multilateral cooperation, acting in line with other key regional platforms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Eurasian Economic Union (EEC) and ASEAN, taking into account the building of an effective security architecture. The Russian Federation called on CICA not to repeat the mistakes of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which in fact cannot function due to the lack of clearly formulated principles.

The Russian Federation expressed its gratitude to Member States for supporting their initiative to adopt the Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development, reaffirming its plans to organize the International Civic Participation Forum “We are Together” in the end of December this year where all the participants can share its experience in this sphere. Noting the continued coordination with the People's Republic of China within the priority area of CICA confidence building measures (CBMs) "Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)", the Russian Federation confirmed the holding of a CICA meeting on digital forensics in October 2023. Gratitude was expressed to the CICA Secretary General for promoting and strengthening CICA efforts.

Tajikistan, represented by H.E. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs, thanked Kazakhstan and the CICA Secretariat for successful leadership and organization of the meeting as well for the beginning of the transformation process. Tajikistan emphasized that CICA has proved to be an effective mechanism of interaction through CBMs. It was noted that the most important area of CICA activity remains the strengthening of international security, countering terrorism, drug trafficking and cross-border crime. Tajikistan called for joint efforts to strengthen international security based on the principles of mutual trust, drawing attention to the development of the Dushanbe process to combat terrorism.

Another important issue is climate change and the associated increase in natural disasters that impede sustainable development and food security. Response measures are needed, including access to financial resources for developing countries, including problems such as access to clear water and sanitation. The Republic of Tajikistan is actively promoting this agenda at the international level, thanks to which 9 resolutions of the UN General Assembly, 2 international documents were adopted, and 2025 was

declared the International Year for Glaciers Preservation. In conclusion, Tajikistan invited Member States to participate in the High-Level Conference on International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development” in Dushanbe in June 2024.

Pakistan, represented by H.E. Mr. Jalil Abbas Jilani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered a statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/21474564976514ee2bb7506.pdf>).

Uzbekistan, represented by H.E. Mr. Bakhtiyor Saidov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stressed the relevance of CICA as an open platform for dialogue, building trust and promoting sustainable development in Asia, and commended the Kazakh Chairmanship for creating prerequisites for further institutional development of CICA. Uzbekistan expressed concern about the negative impact of the current geopolitical realities on regional economic development and integration and, in that context, noted the importance of CICA’s role as an effective platform for ensuring stability in the region. Uzbekistan also highlighted its contribution to CICA as a coordinator of CBM implementation in the human dimension and the co-Chair of the CICA Youth Council, and informed the MC that it would host the Youth Council meeting in Samarkand in October 2023.

Uzbekistan emphasized the initiatives of the President of Uzbekistan put forward at the Sixth CICA Summit towards strengthening cooperation within the CICA framework, in particular in adapting economies of CICA Member States to global crises, preventing protectionism and addressing destabilization of local markets. It stressed the importance of strengthening logistic and transport corridors connecting Central Asia with other regions, such as South Asia and Middle East, as well as promoting digitalization, cloud IT technologies and artificial intelligence. Uzbekistan expressed support to transformation of CICA as proposed by Kazakhstan and adoption of the RMT as practical implementation of related Summit decisions. Uzbekistan also supported adoption of the ministerial statement on volunteerism and appointment of the new DSG. Uzbekistan observed that holding of this meeting on the margins of the UN GA session demonstrates commitment of CICA to promoting international cooperation, and expressed confidence that through building partnerships and trust CICA contributes to achieving prosperity in Asia.

Bangladesh, represented by H.E. Mr. Mohammad Ziauddin, Ambassador-at-Large (Minister), Prime Minister’s Office, delivered a statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/86189634265140c35aaede.pdf>).

Azerbaijan, represented by H.E. Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, delivered a statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/27965108651d2de2e0448.pdf>).

Cambodia, represented by H.E. Mr. Ke Sovann, Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, delivered a statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/1562295776651402441856a.pdf>).

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), represented by H.E. Mr. Ahmed bin Ali Al Sayegh, Minister of State, expressed confidence in Kazakhstan's Chairmanship and its role in the transformation process of CICA. The UAE is committed to working together in a comprehensive approach to contribute to and witness the success of building a robust framework for peace and security in Asia. The UAE reaffirmed its confidence in the ongoing transformation process and expressed its readiness to cooperate and provide support. The UAE's foreign policy underscores key principles such as upholding international law, respecting sovereignty, promoting dialogue and resolving conflicts peacefully. The Minister emphasized the importance of multilateralism in addressing contemporary global challenges, including climate change and countering extremism.

Ahead of the COP28 scheduled from November 30 to December 12, 2023, the UAE is dedicated to leveraging this opportunity to accelerate global action on climate change. The UAE calls upon the international community to actively endorse global green financing initiatives, give precedence to strengthening adaptability and resilience in vulnerable regions, and advocate for collaborative efforts in conducting the first comprehensive global assessment of progress achieved under the Paris Agreement. Minister Al Sayegh stressed that the coming decade is crucial for climate action, and COP28 presents an essential platform to realign, guide and advance climate efforts. He called for collaborative efforts among all stakeholders and leaders to achieve the objectives outlined in the Paris Agreement.

India, represented by Shri Sanjay Verma, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, delivered a statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/7272546256514029b1bec3.pdf>).

Iran, represented by H.E. Dr. Reza Najafi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Legal and International Affairs, delivered a statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/1460663892651b9f05e3343.pdf>).

Türkiye, represented by H.E. Mr. Burak Akçapar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressed deep appreciation to the Kazakh Chairmanship of CICA. The Deputy Minister highlighted the effectiveness of CICA as a valuable institution for multilateralism in Asia and Türkiye's pride as a founding member and former Chair for CICA's achievements. Türkiye commits to supporting efforts to strengthen CICA as a critical platform and encourages concrete steps in this direction to enhance its structures and functions. Mr. Burak Akçapar expressed satisfaction that the transformation process into a full-fledged organization is underway and emphasizes the importance of aligning it with CICA's confidence building objectives.

The speaker underscores the significance of preserving CICA's inclusive geographical scope, participatory nature and consensus-based decision-making process. The Deputy Minister acknowledged the diverse characteristics of Asian nations and emphasized the ultimate goal of ensuring prosperity and peaceful coexistence of all nations on the beautiful continent. The security needs of CICA Member States are recognized as diverse, and trust-building is identified as crucial for fostering confidence and reliance among Member States, especially in the context of CICA's geographical scope.

The Catalogue of CBMs is highlighted as a key tool that can be further developed. The speaker calls for open-minded and constructive discussions among Member States on issues related to transformation. The Almaty Act's comprehensive approach to security, including political, military, confidence-building, economic, environmental, humanitarian and cultural dimensions, is praised as excellent guidance. In the face of increasing asymmetric challenges and a volatile international order, the speaker emphasizes the need for CICA Member States to formulate practical and lasting solutions collaboratively. The speaker stresses the importance of continuing the culture of CBMs as CICA evolves into a full-fledged organization. Türkiye committed to contributing to CICA's efforts in maintaining peace and security in the region.

Viet Nam, represented by H.E. Mr. Phan Hai Anh, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, thanked Kazakhstan and the CICA Secretariat for leadership and hard work in moving the CICA process forward. It noted that, in light of current difficult times, pressing challenges and crisis of multilateralism, CICA and ASEAN have become centres of regional security architecture in the Asia-Pacific region, as they are fostering understanding and building trust. Viet Nam expressed support to all documents submitted for adoption by the MC and highlighted three points. (1) The transformation process is vital and should be pursued in an inclusive, step-by-step and consensus-based fashion. (2) Standardization of CICA procedures are important for promoting trust and confidence among Member States. (3) Raising identity of CICA is important as it promotes regional stability. Viet Nam concluded by stressing the need to build a resilient CICA for future generations.

Thailand, represented by H.E. Mr. Cherdchai Chaivaivid, Director-General of Department of International Economics Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered a statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/141395527765140067772a5.pdf>).

China, represented by H.E. Mr. Geng Shuang, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, delivered a statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/index.php?view=page&t=statements-informal-ministerial-council-meeting-21-september-2023>).

Qatar, represented by H.E. Mr. Soltan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, delivered a statement full version of which is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/index.php?view=page&t=statements-informal-ministerial-council-meeting-21-september-2023>).

Israel, represented by H.E. Mr. Jonathan Miller, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, thanked Kazakhstan and the CICA Secretariat for their leadership and organizing this meeting. Israel stressed that CICA is an important forum for promoting common values, such as strengthening mutual trust and confidence, warned against the abuse of the principles of the organization, its politicization, and wished further success to the activities of CICA. The statement is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/2065726525651d2e0b1595c.pdf>).

Kyrgyzstan, represented by H.E. Mr. Kuban Kabaev, Ambassador-at-Large – Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, expressed support to the CICA transformation process, stressing that this would strengthen cooperation in all five baskets of CICA. Kyrgyzstan highlighted its contribution to implementation of CICA CBMs as Co-coordinator in the human dimension and fully supported adoption of the ministerial statement on volunteerism and appointment of the new DSG. Full version of the statement is available on CICA website (<https://www.s-cica.org/docs/106486287651d2daba7cbc.pdf>).

Kuwait, represented by H.E. Mr. Faisal Al-Enezi, Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, commended the efforts of the Kazakh Chairmanship in pushing forward common CICA goals and expressed gratitude to Kazakhstan and all Member States for their full support to the accession of Kuwait to CICA at the Sixth CICA Summit. Kuwait stressed that it was keen to strengthen cooperation in Asia in accordance with noble goals set in the 1999 Declaration of Principles and 2002 Almaty Act, which fully correspond to basic principles of Kuwait's foreign policy, and expressed firm belief in the goals of CICA.

3. Adoption of decisions/documents

The Ministerial Council adopted the following documents:

- Decision of the CICA Ministerial Council on a Road Map for CICA Transformation (MC/2023/DEC/1 of 21 September 2023). The text of the RMT as endorsed by the MC was issued as document MC/2023/CHAIR/1/Rev.2 of 21 September 2023;
- CICA Ministerial Council Statement on Promoting Volunteerism for Sustainable Development (MC/2023/DEC/2 of 21 September 2023);
- Decision of the CICA Ministerial Council on the appointment of the next CICA Deputy Secretary General (MC/2023/DEC/3 of 21 September 2023).