

- Concept Paper -

**The CICA Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)
in the area of Sustainable Development**

1. Background

1.1 The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is an intergovernmental forum aimed at enhancing cooperation towards the promotion of peace, security and stability in Asia. To accomplish these objectives, CICA has developed structures and mechanisms in order to promote mutual understanding and create an environment of confidence among Member States in five dimensions, namely economic dimension, environmental dimension, human dimension, fight against new challenges and threats, and military-political dimension. Underlying CICA's policies are the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs of Member States and consensus in all decision-making.

1.2 Since Thailand became a CICA member in 2004, Thailand has been cooperating with fellow Member States and the CICA Secretariat in supporting and implementing the CICA Confidence Building Measures (CBMs). In addition to the responsibility as co-coordinator for implementation of CICA CBMs in the development of small and medium enterprises, Thailand has been entrusted to become the coordinator in the area of Sustainable Development at the CICA SWG-SOC Meeting held from 13 to 15 March 2017 in Bangkok.

2. CICA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (People and Global Partnership)

2.1 At the moment, the international community is facing multifaceted non-traditional threats, which are directly and indirectly threatening international security. To tackle these important challenges, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution 70/1 in 2015 on Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With a focus on people, the Agenda is aimed at ending poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and ensuring that all human beings can fulfill their potential by living with dignity and equality in a healthy environment.

2.2 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is also an important framework for UN Member States to revitalize "Global Partnership" for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity with the particular focus on the needs of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and with the participation of all countries, stake holders and peoples. Regarding to this, Member States welcome aligning our development strategies, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of UN, and promoting a stronger, greener, and healthier global development.

2.3 The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented crisis to the global economy in various aspects such as the disruption of the global supply chains, high inflation and unemployment rate, slow economic growth and productivity, and negative effects on the aviation and tourism industries, which has affected all countries and their peoples, especially the poor and those in the vulnerable situations. Promoting global Sustainable Development, staying committed to development as a priority, benefits for all and harmony between man and nature are the key to speeding up economic recovery and to promote environmentally friendly economic growth in the post-COVID-19 era. We need to increase collaboration in development and to advance on a priority basis cooperation on poverty alleviation, food security, COVID-19 response and vaccines, climate change and green development, digital economy and connectivity.

As a forum with significant participation from 28 countries in Asia, which aims to transform into a full-fledged organization in promoting cooperation, peace, and security in the region in the near future, CICA can play a constructive role in supporting and strengthening this Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

3. Implementing the CICA Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the area of Sustainable Development

3.1 Security is a multifaceted concept and traditionally state-centric, security is increasingly moving beyond the state to the individual. The challenges that the international community faces today such as transnational crimes, pandemics, and terrorism bear directly on people-centered development. Security and development are two sides of the same coin. Economic well-being and sustainable development reinforce peace and security and vice versa.

3.2 With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development by all UN Member States, CICA Member States can consider measures to take individually and collectively that would support the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3.3 CICA Member States can explore alternative approaches to sustainable development that they have taken and share their experiences and best practices. These activities should aim to attain the following objectives:

- Offer CICA Member States opportunities to learn from one another through the exchange of national experiences on sustainable development, including challenges and opportunities for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and

- Enhance CICA's role in support of partnerships at all levels, care about the special needs of developing countries with emphasis on addressing unbalanced and inadequate development among and within countries, which will lead to a more equal and balanced global development partnership by

developing a network of collaboration among CICA Member States.

3.4 In case of Thailand, the implementation of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) emerged as a means to cope with negative impacts of globalization, unhealthy economic growth and financial instability. Through over forty years of the implementation of SEP, Thailand has now become an upper middle-income country that has achieved many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Thai government has also adopted the “Bio-Circular-Green Economy Model (BCG Model)” as our national agenda for the post-COVID-19 national recovery strategy, with the objective of gearing towards a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future. Guided by SEP, the BCG Model looks beyond recovery towards achieving the SDGs by 2030.

The BCG agenda envisions promoting balanced growth and investing in sustainable infrastructure in 5 key areas: (1) food and agriculture; (2) medical services and wellness; (3) bioenergy, biomaterials and biochemical; (4) sustainable tourism and creative economy; and (5) circular economy.

Thailand is keen to share our experiences and best practices regarding SEP and BCG as our homegrown and locally-driven development approaches in support of interested CICA Member States to reach all of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through technical training programmes offered by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). At the same time, other CICA Member States are also encouraged to share their knowledge and experiences regarding alternative approaches towards sustainable development.