



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

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

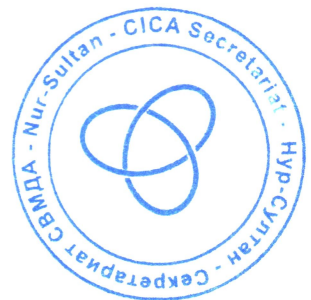
№17-1/828

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 the draft minutes of the Senior Officials Committee (SOC) meeting held on 8 December 2021 for comments and suggestions from Member States to be received by 17 December 2021.

*Enclosure:
as stated,
on 10 p.*

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

Nur-Sultan, 13 December 2021



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



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И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

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*Приложение:
упомянутое,
на 10 л.*

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь препроводить проект протокола заседания Комитета старших должностных лиц (КСДЛ) состоявшегося 8 декабря 2021 года для получения комментариев и предложений государств-членов до 17 декабря 2021 года.

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

город Нур-Султан, 13 декабря 2021 г.



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

Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесінің (АӨСШК) Хатшылығы АӨСШК мүше мемлекеттеріне өзінің зор ілтипатын білдіре отырып, 2021 жылдың 17 желтоқсанына дейін мүше мемлекеттердің түсіндірмелері мен ұсыныстарын алу үшін 2021 жылғы 8 желтоқсанда өткен Аға лауазымды тұлғалар комитеті (АЛТК) отырысы хаттамасының жобасын жолдауды өзіне мәртебе санайды.

*Қосымша:
аталған 10 п.*

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

Нұр-Сұлтан қаласы, 2021 жылғы 13 желтоқсан

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



Secretariat

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SENIOR OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEETING
on 8 December 2021
(online format)**

The Senior Officials Committee (SOC) Meeting was held on 8 December 2021 in Nur-Sultan in an online format. H.E. Mr. Shakhmat Nuryshev, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan chaired the meeting.

The annotated agenda (SOC/2021-III/Agenda/2/Rev.1) and the decisions taken (SOC/2021-III/DEC/1, SOC/2021-III/DEC/2, SOC/2021-III/DEC/3, SOC/2021-III/DEC/4, SOC/2021-III/DEC/5, SOC/2021-III/DEC/6) were circulated to the Member States. These documents are available on the Secretariat's website.

1. Opening of the meeting

The opening statement of Mr. Nuryshev is available on the Secretariat's website. In his statement Mr. Nuryshev highlighted major achievements of CICA in 2021, including documents adopted by the SOC and the Sixth Ministerial Meeting, progress in implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs), updating CICA CBMs, further institutional strengthening. The Chair informed the SOC that the Kazakh Chairmanship has decided to hold the Sixth CICA Summit on 12-13 October 2022 in Nur-Sultan. Mr. Nuryshev also outlined the Chairmanship's approach to preparing the Summit outcome documents.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The SOC adopted its agenda as contained in document SOC/2021-III/Agenda/2/Rev.1.

3. Report by the Executive Director on implementation of CICA confidence building measures (CBMs) and activities of the CICA Secretariat in 2021

The report by the Executive Director, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, is available on the Secretariat's website. The Executive Director reported that out of 49 events included in the 2021 plan of implementation of CBMs 35 had been carried out and 3 would be held before the end of the year - two seminars in the new challenges and threats

dimension and a meeting of the CICA Think Tank Forum. The Executive Director highlighted seminars held in the military-political dimension; on epidemiological safety and public health; on combating organized crime and drug trafficking; on the role of youth in countering radicalism, extremism and terrorism; and others.

The Executive Director stated that half of the events, namely 18, were carried out in the economic dimension, and that indicated to Member States' interest in strengthening economic connectivity within CICA. The Executive Director also highlighted that six events were held under three priority areas of the environmental dimension, including for exchange of experience in dealing with the effects of global warming, desertification and sandstorms and in conserving flora and fauna. He also noted Member States' interest to issues of sustainable development and transition to alternative energy sources. Summing up the outcomes of 2021, the Executive Director noted that the greatest activity in the implementation of CBMs was observed in the economic, environmental and new challenges and threats dimensions.

In reporting about the activities of the Secretariat in 2021, the Executive Director noted that he held about 80 meetings with the Heads of State, Foreign Ministers, Heads of International Organizations, diplomatic missions and Think Tanks of CICA Member States, Observers and Partner Organizations. The Executive Director also reported on his working visits to CICA Member States.

The SOC took note of the report by the Executive Director on implementation of CICA confidence building measures (CBMs) and appreciated activities of the CICA Secretariat in 2021.

4. Information on the concept of and structured discussions on transformation of CICA into an international organization for regional security and cooperation in Asia

The statement of Mr. Nuryshev under this agenda item is available on the Secretariat's website. Mr. Nuryshev stated that, in consistency with its initial plans, the Chairmanship intended to prepare a concept paper on transformation of CICA and circulate this paper to all Member States in the first quarter of 2022. The concept paper would contain the Chairmanship's plans on holding the structured discussions on transformation, including short-term actions to be taken in 2022 and long-term goals of the transformation process.

The Chair will arrange discussions at the Special Working Group (SWG) and SOC in the first half of 2022. The Chair will explore other possible formats of dialogue among Member States, including at the ministerial level. The 2022 Summit would reaffirm the fundamental principles, goals and documents of CICA, the existing institutional structure and working methods, and commitment to the UN Charter. It is the Chairmanship's perception that Member States are satisfied with and do not wish to significantly change the current institutional framework of our forum. The Chair fully

shares this view.

At the same time, on the basis of structured discussions in the course of 2022, the Summit would set initial directions for further work towards strengthening CICA. These could be the renaming of the forum and making few other adjustments which would reflect the reality – the fact of institutional evolution of CICA from a conference into a permanently functioning multilateral platform for dialogue and cooperation. This would constitute the baseline for the long-term transformation process.

5. Recommendation on CICA Chairmanship of Kazakhstan in 2022-2024

Mr. Nuryshev mentioned that Kazakhstan had expressed its intention to continue CICA chairmanship in 2022-2024 at the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting on 12 October 2021. The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, in his address to CICA Foreign Ministers on 12 October stated: “I announce Kazakhstan’s bid for another term-in-office at the helm of CICA for 2022-2024. If granted, we pledge to use a renewed mandate to reinforce collective efforts in fulfilling the CICA’s noble mission.” The SWG at its meeting on 6 December had recommended the adoption of this decision by the SOC.

Decision: The Senior Officials Committee adopted the decision on recommendation for CICA Chairmanship in 2022-2024 (SOC/2021-III/DEC/2 of 8 December 2021).

6. Information on the draft Regulations of the CICA Fund

Mr. Nuryshev introduced the initial draft of the Regulations of the CICA Fund contained in document SOC/2021/DRAFT/4 of 3 December 2021, circulated together with a background paper (SOC/2021-III/CHAIR/2).

He stressed that the initiative to establish a CICA Fund had been announced by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Fifth CICA Summit in 2019. This initiative was also included in the Concept of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in CICA. On 11 December 2020, the SOC took note of the Chairmanship’s initiative to establish a CICA Fund. Thereafter, views and comments of Member States had been received and an initial draft was produced.

Mr. Nuryshev briefly outlined major features of the initial draft Regulations of the CICA Fund. The main purpose of creating the CICA Fund is to establish an additional voluntary funding mechanism to support the achievement of the CICA goals and objectives through the development of CICA project activities and attraction of voluntary contributions. The main principles of the Fund and its project management mechanism would be transparency and accountability, voluntariness and consensus. The proposed modalities of the Fund include three basic components – a pool for voluntary contributions (Fund itself), a pool of approved projects (List of Approved Projects) and a management mechanism consisting of representatives of Member

States (Project Review Committee) participating on a voluntary basis.

The Fund would be used for approved projects which are consistent with the CICA goals and principles, including practical implementation of CICA CBMs, official development assistance (ODA) to Member States, research and development activity, humanitarian assistance and other projects proposed by Member States.

The SOC took note of the information by the Chair on the draft Regulations of the CICA Fund and of the deadline of 1 February 2022 for Member States' comments.

7. Information on the discussion of the draft CICA Plan of Action for Implementation of UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy

Mr. Nuryshev introduced a new draft of the Plan of Action (document SOC/2021/DRAFT/3 of 29 November 2021, issued simultaneously with a background paper SOC/2021/2021-III/CHAIR/1) and plans for its discussion.

Counter-terrorism issues are the major focus of the CICA Member States' cooperation that have been reflected in the updated CICA Catalogue of CBMs as "Combating terrorism" priority area of cooperation in the "New Challenges and Threats" dimension.

He said that in 2012, CICA had engaged in the development of the Member States' joint initiatives on implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS) adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. 60/288 of 8 September 2006, in an effort to foster cooperation in combating terrorism. Therefore, in 2012, the CICA Foreign Ministers had requested the Secretariat to take steps in the elaboration of the CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the UNGCTS under the guidance of the SOC. Further to consultations with the relevant UN agencies, the Secretariat had elaborated the draft Action Plan and circulated it to the Member States for the first time in November 2013. So far, consensus had not been reached on the draft.

The analysis made recently indicated that certain items of the draft of CICA Plan of Action duplicated the UNGCTS, and the size of the document had increased significantly. In this respect, the Chairmanship, in partnership with relevant experts had reviewed and refined the draft on the basis of Member States' comments and proposed a new version of the Plan.

The Chairmanship proposed to hold a specialized meeting of CICA in the 1st quarter of 2022, in accordance to the Chapter 8 of the CICA Rules of Procedure. This meeting would be held in a hybrid format, focused on the review of the draft CICA Plan of Action, with the participation of heads of relevant national agencies of the Member States. Under-Secretary-General of the UN CTO V.Voronkov and Director of the SCO RATS Executive Committee would be invited to be the keynote speakers at this meeting.

Decision: The SOC recommended convening specialized meetings envisaged by Chapter 8 of the CICA Rules of Procedure, for consideration of the draft CICA Plan of Action for Implementation of UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

8. Current status of Concept Papers and Action Plans on implementation of CBMs in priority areas of CICA dimensions

The Executive Director, Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, referred to the adoption by Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting of the updated CICA Catalogue of CBMs, which now contains a broad range of new CBMs and an adjusted structure of priority areas. Therefore, the Secretariat had consolidated and issued information about the current status of developing and updating Concept Papers and Action Plans. It had been issued as document SOC/2021-III/INF/3 on 2 December 2021 as supporting material to this SOC meeting. The paper provided a brief overview of priority areas where an update of Concept Papers was advisable, as well as information on progress in the ongoing review of Concept Papers. Draft Concept Papers in two priority areas - "Finance" and "Development of small and medium enterprises" - were considered by all Member States, and on 6 December, the SWG had recommended their approval by the SOC.

Decision: The SOC approved the Concept Paper on implementation of CBMs in the priority area "Finance".

Decision: The SOC approved the Concept Paper for 2021-2023 on implementation of CBMs in the priority area "Development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs)".

At the request of one Member State, the Chair clarified that Action Plans were not subject to approval by the SOC.

9. Decision on appointment of new coordinating and co-coordinating countries for implementing CBMs

Mr. Nuryshev reported that adoption of the updated CICA Catalogue of CBMs at the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting was a significant achievement. The Member States, following intensive work throughout this year, had actualized this core CICA document in line with current realities and needs of Member States, adding new CBMs and priority areas of interaction.

The Chair emphasized that updating of the Catalogue demonstrated increased interest to and even demand for implementation of CICA CBMs, what proved the relevance and usefulness of our forum for its Member States. He also underlined that the increased interest to taking up the role of Coordinators or Co-coordinators, as seen during this year, also indicated to the high sense of ownership over CICA among Member States. This was very encouraging, and the Chairmanship welcomed such an excellent trend.

During the meeting, China expressed its interest to acting as Co-Coordinator in the priority area “Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)” for 2022-2023.

Decision: The SOC approved new coordinating countries for implementing CBMs under priority areas of CICA dimensions:

- India in the priority area “Combating terrorism”;
- Kazakhstan in the priority area “Epidemiological safety, public health and pharmaceuticals”; and
- the Russian Federation in the priority area “Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)” for 2022 - 2023.

The SOC approved China as co-coordinating country for implementing CBMs in the priority area “Security of and in the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs)” for 2022 - 2023.

The SOC approved the amended List of coordinating and co-coordinating countries for implementing CBMs under priority areas of CICA dimensions (SOC/2021-III/DEC/3 of 8 December 2021).

Mr. Nuryshev noted that during 2021 excellent progress had been made both in substantive update and expansion of CICA CBMs and in improvement of modalities of CBM implementation, namely in planning, conduct and reporting on CBM events. He also noted that suggestions had been made on modalities of work on CBMs, such as proposals of the Russian Federation regarding Coordinators and forward-looking ideas of the Secretariat put forward in its food-for thought paper of 19 May 2021.

The Chair referred to paragraph 1.8 of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs, which envisages regular review of implementation of the Catalogue, and informed the SOC that the Chairmanship would consider holding a discussion at one of SOC meetings in the course of 2022, with a view to hearing views of Member States on such a review exercise and generally about directions for further improvement of CBM implementation.

10. Decision on the Annual Plan of Implementation of CBMs for 2022

Mr. Nuryshev recalled that according to the General guidelines for conducting events on implementation of CICA confidence building measures adopted by the SOC on 23 June 2021, “before the end of the calendar year, the SOC shall approve an Annual Plan of Implementation of CBMs for the following year and will update it as necessary. Inclusion of an event in the Annual Plan does not mean automatic approval of its concept.” He said that the proposed plan for 2022 included a good number of events in many priority areas of CICA. The SWG at its meeting on 6 December had recommended the adoption of this decision by the SOC.

The Executive Director noted that according to Article 3 of the aforementioned General Guidelines, “when planning any CICA event, the organizing Member State should submit, to the Secretariat preliminary information about the event before 1 October.” He reported to the SOC on the Secretariat’s work on collecting inputs from Member States to the 2022 plan and stressed the importance of its timely approval for sound planning and management of Secretariat resources.

Decision: The SOC approved the CICA Plan of Implementation of CBMs for 2022 (SOC/2021-III/DEC/4 of 8 December 2021), with recommendation to the Member States to update or to submit preliminary concepts of 2022 events in accordance with the General Guidelines for Conducting Events on Implementation of CICA CBMs.

The Russian Federation made a proposal to consider holding CBM events related to the sphere of construction, housing policy and urbanization. The Chair welcomed the proposal and suggested that it be communicated in writing through the Secretariat. India informed the SOC that it had submitted an updated preliminary concept for one event listed in the 2022 plan.

11. Decision on the 2022 Budget of the CICA Secretariat

Mr. Nuryshev reported that the SWG at its meeting on 6 December recommended the adoption of the decision on the 2022 Budget of the CICA Secretariat by the SOC.

The Executive Director presented the proposed 2022 Budget of the CICA Secretariat, referring to the explanatory note (SOC/2021-III/INF/2) circulated together with the related draft SOC decision on 26 November 2021. The draft budget was prepared in accordance with the CICA Financial Rules and the Financial Regulations. The total amount of the proposed budget for the next financial year was 4 460 000 US dollars. This level of resources was required for effective implementation of the functions of the Secretariat stipulated in the Statute of the CICA Secretariat. Among other regular items, the estimated amount of the operational budget for 2022 included expenses for holding the CICA Summit in 2022 and other events and activities related to the 30th anniversary of CICA. Staff costs for 2022 remained at the same level as in 2021.

Decision: The SOC adopted the decision on the 2022 Budget of the CICA Secretariat (SOC/2021-III/DEC/5 of 8 December 2021).

12. Decision on the Staffing Matrix of the CICA Secretariat

Mr. Nuryshev reported that the SWG at its meeting on 6 December recommended the adoption of this decision by the SOC.

The Executive Director introduced the proposal on amending current Staff Matrix of CICA Secretariat, which had been approved by the SOC on 31 October 2014. He referred to the explanatory note (SOC/2021-III/INF/1) circulated together with the draft SOC decision on 16 November 2021. The Executive Director stressed that the

proposal was aimed at bringing the titles and job descriptions of positions in consistency with current realities, the nature and functions of jobs, and actual needs of the Secretariat, as well as more accurate reflection of functions without changing the nature of jobs. He stressed that proposed updates did not contain any changes to the number of posts, the structure of the post table or the salary rates and, therefore, there were no any budgetary implications.

Decision: The SOC adopted the decision on the Staff Matrix of the CICA Secretariat (SOC/2021-III/DEC/6 of 8 December 2021).

13. Information on the composition of the CICA Council of Eminent Persons and its Advisory Group

Mr. Nuryshev informed that following the adoption of the Regulations on the CICA Council of Eminent Persons by the Sixth CICA Ministerial Meeting, the Chairmanship had launched the process of nomination of candidates for the membership in the Council and its Advisory Group.

In accordance with para. 3.1.1 of the Regulations of the Council of Eminent Persons, the CICA Member States had approved the Founder of CICA – First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev as the Head of the Council of Eminent Persons through the silence procedure. The Chair expressed gratitude of the Chairmanship to all Member States for support.

He also briefed about nominations to the Council of Eminent Persons and its Advisory Group received so far. He noted that nominees to the Council were former foreign ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors, prominent political and public figures. He noted that the SWG at its meeting on 6 December noted the Chairmanship's intention to continue consultations and extend the deadline for nominations until 31 December 2021.

The SOC took note of the Chairmanship's intention to continue consultations on membership in the CICA Council of Eminent Persons and supported the Chairmanship's call to all Member States to nominate high level candidates to the Council of Eminent Persons and candidates to the Advisory Group until 31 December 2021, with a view to ensuring as broad geographical representation as possible.

14. Any other business

- Anniversary Medal "30 Years of CICA"

Mr. Nuryshev outlined the general context of the proposal to establish an Anniversary Medal "30 Years of CICA". He highlighted several projects dedicated to marking the 30th anniversary of CICA in 2022. Within series of festive events, it was planned to publish a Commemorative Book, intended to comprehensively reflect the evolution of CICA, a tourist guide with eco-destinations of the CICA region, a collection of fairy

tales of Asian nations from the CICA region. The Chairmanship encouraged all Member States to provide materials requested by the Secretariat for these publications.

He further recalled that the Chairmanship had presented its initiative on a CICA 30 years anniversary medal in September 2021. The proposed draft Regulations establish the status of the CICA Medal, define its main characteristics, the nomination and award procedures, as well as eligibility for the award. The Regulations were very similar to the Regulations of the 20th Anniversary Medal adopted by the SOC in 2012. The Medal would be produced in advance of the CICA Summit in 2022. Expenses for the production of the Medal would be covered by the Secretariat. The Chairmanship would continue consultations on the draft SOC decision on the Regulations.

- **CICA Think Tank Forum**

Mr. Nuryshev noted that on 15 June 2019, the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev had announced at the Dushanbe Summit the initiative to strengthen the capacity of the CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF) by transforming it into a permanent dialogue platform. He recalled that in December 2020, the SOC supported this initiative and decided to hold meetings of the TTF on a regular basis. In 2021, the Member States elaborated and adopted the Regulations of the CICA TTF.

The Chair stressed that now CICA has a permanent information and analytical advisory body that will provide information and analytical support for activities within the CICA framework and develop interaction among think tanks and research institutions of the CICA Member States. This was a significant achievement in further strengthening of CICA activities and institutional structure.

Mr. Nuryshev informed the SOC that at the moment 17 Member States have appointed their think tanks as Members of the TTF and that the Chairmanship had appointed the Shanghai Institute for International Studies (SIIS) as Chair of the CICA TTF.

He noted that the SIIS would hold the 9th meeting of the CICA Think Tank Forum on 28-29 December 2021 in an online format. This would be the first meeting of the TTF as a permanent CICA institution. The agenda, programme, introduction note and registration form of the meeting, proposed by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies had been forwarded to the Member States.

The Chair drew the attention of the SOC to important issues on the agenda of the 28-29 December meeting of the TTF. As part of the Chairmanship plan to hold structured discussions on transformation of CICA into an international organization for regional security, the upcoming TTF meeting would exchange views on the transformation and upgrade of CICA.

It was expected that CICA think tanks would express their expert opinion on the conceptual approaches to transformation proposed by the CICA Chairmanship of

Kazakhstan and circulated to all Member States on 26 August 2021. The Chairmanship expected that intellectual contribution from the so-called “second track” – from analytical and research institutions of Member States – would be very valuable for forthcoming deliberations on transformation among all Member States in the framework of CICA governing bodies.

The Chairmanship encouraged as broad as possible participation at the 9th Meeting of the CICA Think Tank Forum on 28-29 December and looked forward to fruitful outcomes of analytical and expert deliberations on the transformation of CICA.

The SOC took note of the information of the Chairmanship on progress in composition of the CICA TTF and on the forthcoming TTF meeting on 28-29 December 2021.

- Relations with other regional organizations

Mr. Nuryshev highlighted the importance of CICA cooperation with other international organizations. Apart from the UN, CICA would benefit from building strong relationship with Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Organization of Turkic States, Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), League of Arab States (LAS) and others.

The Chair introduced its proposal that the SOC approve starting the process of establishing relations with the EEC of the EAREU and ASEAN. At the request of the Chairmanship, the Secretariat had prepared and sent to the Member States reports on potential benefits of CICA cooperation with EAEU and ASEAN for consideration by the SOC. This was done in line with the “Guidelines for CICA’s External Relations” document adopted by the SOC in 2007.

The Russian Federation expressed support to the Chairmanship’s initiative and encouraged other countries to take a closer look on the given issue. Cambodia also supported the proposal and stated that, after assuming chairmanship in ASEAN in 2022, it would facilitate negotiations with ASEAN members states. Turkey suggested to examine benefits of developing relations between CICA and the Organization of Turkic States.

Decision: The SOC approved starting the process of establishing relations with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) and with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).