

SPEECH
DELIVERED BY H.E. VO THI ANH XUAN
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AT THE 7TH CICA SUMMIT

(Baku, Azerbaijan, 15 October 2026)

Your Excellency Ilham Heydar oglu Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan,

Distinguished Heads of Delegation,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to attend the Seventh CICA Summit in Baku. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Azerbaijan for the gracious and thoughtful welcome extended to the Vietnamese delegation.

Viet Nam highly appreciates Azerbaijan's role as Chair of CICA. Amid considerable challenges facing the region and the world, Azerbaijan has made important contributions to promoting dialogue and cooperation, sustaining trust across Asia, and successfully hosting this Summit.

On this occasion, I would also like to warmly welcome the Lao People's Democratic Republic as a new Member State of CICA.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

For more than three decades, CICA and its Member States have made important contributions to promoting dialogue, enhancing mutual understanding and building trust among nations, thereby helping to maintain peace and stability and expand cooperation in Asia. However, amid profound changes in the global and regional landscape, CICA must continue to pursue reform and transformation to enhance its operational effectiveness and promote substantive cooperation.

The theme of this Summit, “Stronger CICA: Connectivity, Digitalization, and Sustainable Growth in Asia,” offers a practical path forward: promoting equitable and transparent connectivity to align interests; fostering inclusive digitalization to expand opportunities; and sharing the fruits of development to achieve common prosperity—all in pursuit of a stronger CICA.

At the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly, H.E. To Lam, General Secretary, State President of Viet Nam outlined a series of proposals aimed at restoring global trust. These proposals are closely aligned with CICA's

guiding principles. At this Summit, Viet Nam proposes the following three directions for action:

First, respect for and consistent adherence to international law provide the foundation for strengthening trust. We must uphold multilateralism and the central role of the United Nations. Cooperation and the management of differences must be based on the UN Charter and the fundamental principles of international law, namely respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; non-interference in internal affairs; refraining from the threat or use of force; and the peaceful settlement of disputes. In this spirit, Viet Nam calls upon countries to resolve conflicts and disputes in the region by peaceful means and in accordance with international law.

Second, strengthen coordinated action and enhance the effectiveness of cooperation in preventing and responding to common challenges. We should intensify information sharing, maintain channels of communication, and coordinate efforts to prevent and respond to risks and challenges, particularly in the political-military sphere, cybersecurity, energy security, water security, and in addressing climate change and natural disasters. We should also expand coordination between CICA, ASEAN and other regional cooperation mechanisms, fostering closer links between Southeast Asia, Central Asia and the wider Eurasian region.

Third, strengthen economic, technological and cultural connectivity to generate momentum for sustainable development. We should enhance connectivity in infrastructure, transport and supply chains; deepen cooperation in education and training, science and technology, innovation, digital transformation, green transition and artificial intelligence; and strengthen linkages to facilitate access to financing, credit, funding and humanitarian assistance, thereby helping to narrow development gaps and expand development opportunities for countries facing difficulties. We should also strengthen cultural cooperation and people-to-people exchanges, harnessing cultural diversity as a resource for cooperation and sustainable development.

After 40 years of Doi Moi (Renewal), Viet Nam has laid a solid foundation for entering a new phase of development, pursuing two strategic goals: by 2030, to become a developing country with modern industry and upper-middle-income status; and by 2045, to become a developed, high-income country.

Viet Nam has identified science and technology, innovation, digital transformation and high-quality human resources as key drivers of development. We seek stability through development, and sustainable development through stability. Viet Nam consistently pursues a foreign policy of independence, resilience, self-reliance, peace, friendship, cooperation and development, while multilateralizing and diversifying our external relations.

Viet Nam stands ready to share its experience and work alongside fellow CICA Member States to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest, and to continue building and nurturing trust through concrete and practical actions, for a peaceful, connected and prosperous Asia.

I wish the Summit every success.

Thank you very much.