

**STATEMENT**  
**by First Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan Akan RAKHMETULLIN**  
**at the CICA Day reception**

4 October 2024  
Astana

**Your Excellency Secretary General,  
Distinguished Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

First off, I would like to thank the CICA Secretariat for organizing this reception dedicated to the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of CICA.

Within this relatively short period of CICA's history, Kazakhstan, as its founding state, current Chairman and host country, has certainly a lot to be proud of. As the Secretary General rightfully noted, outlining every single achievement of CICA over the past four years of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship would take the entire evening.

Therefore, let me mention only the most prominent accomplishments.

First and foremost, CICA is increasingly proving its relevance and necessity, as we face multiple challenges in global affairs where the role of Asia is apparently growing. With its extensive geography and institutional capacities that we could see on the slideshow, CICA offers its Member States a unique toolkit for dialogue and cooperation on equal footing.

Recognizing this mature stage of CICA's evolution, our Heads of State or Government launched the process of CICA transformation two years ago in the capital of Kazakhstan. The process was initially proposed by H.E. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the Fifth Summit in Dushanbe in 2019 and later materialized at the Sixth Summit in 2022 by the adoption of the **Astana Statement on CICA Transformation**.

We hope that the **Road Map for CICA Transformation** adopted last year will serve as a guideline for Member States along that path of reforms. Let me quote President K.Tokayev who made it crystal clear: *"We are not creating a new organization, we are moving to a new stage of institutional development."*

Speaking of institutionalization, over the four years of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship, **three new permanent CICA institutions** have been

established. One of them – the **Think Tank Forum** – was transformed into a permanent advisory body from an already existing platform, whereas the other two – the **Council of Eminent Persons** and the **CICA Fund** – were established from scratch and await an exciting journey of further operationalization, for which we hope to see the goodwill of Member States.

Speaking of CICA's founding documents, Kazakhstan has always been and will remain committed to the **Almaty Act** and the **Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the Member States**.

Yet, in order to meet the challenges and demands of our time, the Kazakh Chairmanship has led the process of updating the **Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures** – the one-of-a-kind “menu” of our cooperation containing clear-cut 18 priority areas across five dimensions. We are sincerely grateful to Member States for supporting the draft **Modalities of CBM implementation** recommended for the adoption at the upcoming CICA Ministerial Council meeting in Baku.

Speaking of CICA's geography and external relations, during the Chairmanship of Kazakhstan we welcomed one Member State (**Kuwait** in 2022) and two Observer States (**Turkmenistan** in 2021, **Saudi Arabi** in 2023) to the CICA family.

Back in 2022, the **Eurasian Economic Union** became the 6th Partner Organization of CICA, whereas in 2024 the CICA Senior Officials Committee approved the establishment of partnership with two more structures of the United Nations – **UNOCT** and **UN ESCAP**.

Other important outcomes of the Sixth CICA Summit include the adoption of the following documents:

- CICA Plan of Action on the Implementation of the **United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**, which is a significant achievement in this area (the document was 10 years in the making);
- Joint CICA **Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in the Field of Security of and in the Use of ICTs** (the Russian-Chinese Initiative) aimed at facilitating practical cooperation among the Member States in this priority area.

Thus, let me go over the most recent priorities set by President Tokayev for the second biennial period of our Chairmanship – 2022-2024 – and report progress.

First, I sincerely thank all Member States for attending the **CICA Ministerial Conference on Environmental Issues** on August 28.

Despite the lack of opportunity to hold the event offline, I believe the Conference was a success. The Member States adopted a high-level Statement committing to enhanced cooperation, water management, climate action aligned with the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, and improving quality of life through mitigation, conservation, and pollution control.

Second, let me congratulate all the participants of the **meeting of the CICA Youth Council and the Rally of Volunteer Movement Leaders** under its auspices that were hosted by the Kazakh Chairmanship these two days.

It is our belief that these events served to strengthen youth exchange and cooperation of volunteer organizations where youth play a significant role.

With this in mind, at the initiative of Kazakhstan, the UN declared 2026 the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development.

Substantial progress has been made in implementing another initiative of the Head of State – establishing a **Partnership Network of Leading Universities of the CICA Member States (PNLU)**.

The draft Memorandum on establishment of the PNLU has been approved for its further adoption by the CICA Ministerial Council in Baku, along with inauguration of this Network.

Fourth, the Kazakh Chairmanship also proposed to transform the **CICA Finance Summit**, initiated and successfully convened by China three times since 2018, into a permanent platform. Just a month ago, the Chairmanship used the platform of the Astana Finance Days hosted by AIFC to hold the first round of expert discussions of this initiative among CICA Member States.

We express gratitude to all Member States for their inputs and hope to see even more enhanced deliberations on institutionalizing the Finance Summit.

Fifth, President Tokayev proposed to establish the **CICA Council on Sustainable Connectivity**, taking into account the emerging global economic challenges, such as supply chain disruptions.

This initiative is meant to harness the transit potential of Member States and strengthen cooperation in developing sustainable transportation corridors. And, as far as I understand, this fully echoes with the priorities of the incoming Chairmanship of Azerbaijan.

### **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

Let me remind that the legal capacity of our organization is provided by the **CICA Convention on the Privileges and Immunities**. Kazakhstan remains committed to facilitate its entry into force. In this regard, we are very grateful to **Bangladesh, China, Jordan and Pakistan** who ratified the Convention within just the past year and thereby contributed to achieving this ultimate goal.

It is our hope that those Member States, who signed but not ratified the Convention, will follow suit.

### **Your Excellencies, dear colleagues!**

Before concluding my remarks, I would like to reaffirm that the decision of President K.Tokayev to build a new state-of-the-art **headquarters of CICA** in Astana, indeed, is a gracious gesture of Kazakhstan, as CICA's founding state and host country. This decision is meant not only to create favourable conditions for the Secretariat, but also to maintain the priceless institutional memory of CICA, to provide high-quality infrastructure for the operation of its bodies, and to paint the face of CICA itself as a full-fledged international organization.

It is my firm belief that following CICA's comprehensive transformation process, our renewed organization will find its unique place in the network of multilateral structures for security and cooperation in Asia.

Thank you!