

STATEMENT
at the Reception on the Occasion of the 20th Anniversary
of the CICA Secretariat
(Astana, 17 June 2026)

**Your Excellency Ambassador Sarybay,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Today, we mark an important milestone for everyone who believes that dialogue is the foundation of lasting security: **the twentieth anniversary of the CICA Secretariat.**

The establishment of the Secretariat gave our Conference something that ideas alone cannot provide: **a permanent home, a strong institutional memory, and a committed team** working to translate principles into action.

What began as an initiative put forward by Kazakhstan at the United Nations General Assembly in 1992, **a vision of Asia as a region defined by dialogue rather than division**, has since grown into an institution with deep and enduring roots.

Today, **CICA brings together 28 member states** representing more than half of the world's population and territory. States of vastly different size, influence, and strategic orientation come together **under a common roof of dialogue, regardless of the tensions that may exist beyond it.** This architecture reflects a deliberate principle: that **lasting security in Asia must be inclusive and must engage all those who have a stake in the continent's stability.**

We also greatly value the presence of our observers, including states, international organizations, and the United Nations itself. Their participation serves as **a reminder that the**

architecture of global dialogue retains its value precisely when it is most tested.

Our collective achievements have been significant. The update of the Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures in 2021 strengthened the practical dimension of our cooperation. At the same time, the **establishment of advisory bodies and platforms** bringing together youth, business communities, think tanks, financial institutions, universities, and women leaders has enriched the institutional fabric of our Conference and expanded its reach.

The **ongoing negotiations on the CICA Charter** represent a historic opportunity to advance the Conference with greater confidence, coherence, and legal clarity. **We express our deep appreciation to the Azerbaijan Chairmanship** for its tireless and skillful efforts in advancing CICA's agenda, including **the process of transformation into a full-fledged international organization**. This important work is firmly grounded in the Astana Statement on CICA Transformation, adopted unanimously by all member states.

As global challenges deepen and trust between states continues to erode, **CICA's relevance only grows**. In a world marked by increasing geopolitical competition, it provides an **important platform where middle powers can foster dialogue, build consensus, and help balance interests without being drawn into any rivalry.**

Kazakhstan has consistently advanced this mission, viewing **CICA as one of the key pillars of regional and global stability.**

Our commitment is reflected in our **regular voluntary contributions to the Secretariat's budget, the secondment of diplomats to its staff, and the ratification of the Protocol to the 2007 Host Country Agreement.** Most visibly, it is reflected in the **new CICA headquarters, established on the initiative of**

President Tokayev and fully equipped to support the organization's expanding agenda.

The Secretariat is the **backbone of everything we have built together**. On this occasion, I would like to express Kazakhstan's **sincere appreciation to Secretary General Ambassador Sarybay** and the **entire Secretariat staff** for their professionalism and unwavering service to our shared mission.

This anniversary is not only a moment for reflection. It is also a moment for renewed commitment to the **principles of mutual respect, sovereign equality, and dialogue** that have guided CICA since its establishment.

As we celebrate what we have accomplished together, let us **reaffirm our shared commitment to a more stable, secure, and cooperative Asia for future generations**.

Thank you.