

**Statement by Mr. Farid Damirli, Deputy Secretary General of the
Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia
(CICA)**

**Fifteenth Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic
States (TURKPA)**

20 October 2026, Bishkek

**Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is an honor to address the Fifteenth Plenary Session of TURKPA. I sincerely thank the Secretary General of TURKPA, Ambassador Ramil Hasan, for his kind invitation and continued commitment to strengthening cooperation between our institutions. I also extend my appreciation to the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting this Session and for the warm hospitality.

We meet just days after the successful conclusion of the *7th CICA Summit, held in Baku on 15 October* under the Chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev. The Summit marked an important milestone in advancing regional dialogue, mutual trust and cooperation across Asia.

The participation of the Presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, demonstrated the strong commitment of countries represented in both CICA and TURKPA to our shared objectives. Their high-level engagement reflected the importance they attach to CICA as a platform for confidence-building, peace and cooperation.

Excellencies,

Allow me to highlight the *principal outcomes* of the Summit and their significance for the next stage of CICA's development.

The [adoption](#) of the Baku *Declaration* reaffirmed Member States' commitment to multilateralism, dialogue and collective efforts towards a more peaceful and prosperous Asia.

The Summit also [adopted](#) the *Statement on Occupational Safety and Health*, reflecting the importance of ensuring safe and healthy working environments as part of sustainable development.

We [welcomed](#) the *Lao People's Democratic Republic* as a full Member of CICA. Its accession broadens CICA's geographical reach and creates further opportunities for cooperation with Southeast Asia.

Member States [extended](#) *Azerbaijan's Chairmanship for 2026–2028*, in recognition of its effective leadership and contribution to advancing CICA's agenda. This continuity will help sustain progress in institutional strengthening, connectivity and practical cooperation.

The [appointment](#) of *Ambassador Sultan Hajiye* as CICA Secretary General for 2026–2030 opens a new period for the Secretariat and its engagement with Member States and partners.

Another important milestone is Cambodia's ratification of the *Convention on Privileges and Immunities*. As the fourteenth Member State to ratify the Convention, Cambodia has completed the ratification requirement for its entry into force on 8 November 2026.

The Convention will strengthen CICA's legal foundations. It will provide the Secretariat with the legal capacity necessary to exercise its functions in the territory of each Party.

Taken together, these developments mark the *beginning of a new period for CICA* and its partners. Under Azerbaijan's continued Chairmanship and the leadership of the new Secretary General, our task is to translate the Summit's political commitments into practical cooperation that benefits our Member States and their people.

Excellencies,

TURKPA, as an observer to CICA, is an important partner. The active engagement of TURKPA Member States in CICA provides a strong foundation for closer cooperation between our institutions.

Our continued contacts have demonstrated a shared interest in strengthening institutional cooperation, maintaining reciprocal participation in major events and identifying areas where our work can complement each other.

Parliamentary diplomacy can make a valuable contribution to confidence-building. Through dialogue among elected representatives, the exchange of legislative experience and engagement with citizens, parliaments help build the understanding and trust on which regional cooperation depends.

The theme of this Plenary Session, "Parliamentary Cooperation in the Turkic World in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Technological Progress", is particularly relevant to CICA's practical agenda.

Digital transformation is changing public administration, economic activity and regional connectivity. It also raises shared questions about access to technology, skills and the governance of artificial intelligence. Parliamentary exchanges can further help countries learn from one another and develop approaches suited to their national circumstances.

Within CICA, Member States have promoted exchanges on digital government, artificial intelligence, innovation and the digitalization of transport corridors.

These efforts offer opportunities to connect parliamentary dialogue with practical cooperation among relevant national institutions.

Connectivity remains a priority of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship. Cooperation on transport infrastructure and digital solutions can facilitate trade, improve access to markets and strengthen links across Asia.

The CICA Secretariat looks forward to working closely with TURKPA during this new period, building on our established relations and the direction provided by the Baku Summit.

I wish the Fifteenth Plenary Session productive deliberations and every success.

Thank you.