

## **Declaration of the Third Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs “CICA Progress in Implementation of CBMs”**

Almaty, August 25, 2008

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (hereinafter referred to as the Member States and the CICA respectively),

Having met in Almaty for the Third Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs to exchange views on regional and global issues and to explore possibilities to further enhance cooperation, peace and security in Asia,

Reaffirming our commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, generally recognized norms and principles of international law as well as to the CICA basic documents,

Recognizing the prevailing trends towards a multi-polar world, intensification of global and regional cooperation, process of globalization and acceleration of scientific and technological progress,

Emphasizing the indivisibility and comprehensive character of security,

Acknowledging that Asia is characterized by the diversity of political and economic systems as well as cultural traditions,

Recognizing that challenges facing the Member States are complex and interrelated and require greater regional and inter-regional cooperation,

Reaffirming that pursuing of multilateral approaches is vital to address the numerous challenges before the contemporary world,

Stressing the importance of multilateral efforts based upon adherence to international law as effective way to maintain peace, security and stability while emphasizing the central role of the United Nations in maintenance of harmonious international relations,

Reaffirming in this regard the importance of promoting the CICA as a multilateral forum for close cooperation, continuous dialogue and interaction, comprehensive exchange of views, addressing new challenges and threats, facilitating prevention of conflicts, peaceful settlement of disputes as well as developing and implementing agreed Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) in the Asian continent,

Supporting expansion of political and economic cooperation as well as interaction in human dimension among the Member States,

Acknowledging the necessity for further development and strengthening of the CICA process and contribution for moving this process forward,

Recognizing the importance of implementing the CICA Catalogue of CBMs of 2004 by creating the necessary conditions, inter alia, relevant mechanisms within the CICA for the implementation of cooperative measures in the area of CBMs,

Welcoming the commencement of realization of CBMs in the field of New Challenges and Threats, as well as in Human dimensions,

*DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:*

1. We underline that international security is indivisible. We stress the importance of taking steps that will not undermine each others security but will instead contribute to maintenance of peace, security and stability based on norms and principles of international law and provisions of the UN Charter.

2. We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stress that there is no justification for terrorism. We are determined to enhance our efforts on national, regional and multilateral basis to combat this threat, which undermines the foundations of global peace and security. The fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations should be comprehensive, consistent and avoid double standards.

Terrorism can not be and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

We recognize the central role of the United Nations in the fight against international terrorism.

We continue to encourage States, which have not yet done so, to become Party to the 13 International Conventions on Terrorism adopted within the framework of the United Nations. The task of creating a comprehensive legal instrument is yet to be fulfilled. In this regard we support continuation of efforts in the UN General Assembly on conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

3. We reaffirm that separatism is one of the main threats and challenges to the security and stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states. The CICA Member States shall not support on the territory of another Member State any separatist movements and entities. We reiterate that our territories shall not be used by any separatist movement and entities and we shall not establish any kinds of relations and communications with separatists and shall not render them any kind of assistance.

4. We reaffirm the right of people to self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

5. We underline our continued support for the peace and development of Afghanistan. We reaffirm that stability in Afghanistan is crucial for the region and the Asian continent as a whole. We encourage the Member States for closer cooperation with Afghanistan including in the area of combating terrorism, illicit drug production and trafficking of narcotic drugs and their chemical precursors as well as for reconstruction of the country. In this respect we emphasize the possibility for the CICA to address these issues. We welcome the humanitarian assistance extended by the Member States to Afghanistan as a result of appeal by the CICA and encourage them to continue efforts in this direction.

6. We state that proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in all its aspects remains a threat to regional and international peace and security. We call upon the Member States to continue their efforts to prevent terrorists and criminal groups from acquiring WMDs. We reaffirm the inalienable right of all States to develop, research and use nuclear technologies for peaceful purposes, in accordance with their respective obligations emanating from relevant IAEA safeguard agreements. We strongly encourage efforts to ensure the inviolability of nuclear facilities.

7. We appreciate the efforts of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand and Turkey for volunteering as coordinating and co-coordinating countries in the process of implementation of CBMs. We encourage other Member States to likewise come forward to coordinate or co-coordinate different aspects of the CBMs enumerated in the Cooperative Approach. We also encourage all the Member States to step up their efforts to be more actively involved in the implementation process.

8. In this regard, we take note with appreciation of the Concept Paper on “Cooperation among the CICA Member States in Combating Illicit Drug Production and Trafficking and Precursors” elaborated by the Specialized Expert Meeting (SEM), held in 2007 in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran. We consider that illicit drug production and trafficking is a serious threat to the public health, stability and security of the Member States. Therefore, we are determined to promote efforts to eradicate the root causes of conditions conducive to illicit drug production and trafficking. In this regard we support the procedures for further enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Member States to combat illicit drug production and trafficking as contained in the Concept Paper.

9. We take note of the Concluding Summary of the Experts Meeting on addressing New Threats and Challenges, held in Ankara on 31 January - 1 February 2008 and call upon the Member States to realize to the furthest possible extent the activities contained within the Action Plan in the areas of border control and management, police related issues, terrorism and trafficking.

10. We commit ourselves to facilitate inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue and partnerships aimed at providing security through promotion of tolerance, respect and protection of cultural diversity as well as mutual understanding at national, regional and international levels. We welcome in this regard recommendations of the first Specialized Experts Meeting, held in Astana on 27-28 June 2007 on realization of pilot projects in 10 directions.

11. We recognize the fundamental responsibility of the governments to ensure equality of and equal access to education. We also acknowledge the increasing role of the private sector in this domain. Stressing the importance of international cooperation in achieving “Education for All” goals, in particular in improving the quality of education for development, we confirm the necessity of closer friendly cooperation, exchange of experience and interaction in this sphere. We, therefore, recognizing expediency of convening in the near future first Specialized Experts Meeting on educational issues, note the importance of defining co-coordinators of CBMs realization in this direction.

12. We support the enhancement of the economic cooperation in the sphere of investments, finance, small and medium enterprise, trade, innovations and informational exchange which will promote strengthening peace and mutual confidence among the Member States.

13. We shall continue to develop effective and secure transportation corridors in the CICA region which will significantly contribute to integration of a global transportation network, eliminate barriers impeding trade and stimulate cooperation in other spheres of economy as well as to the strengthening of atmosphere of confidence.

14. In recognizing the close links among energy related issues, including energy security and economic development, we are committed to enhancing cooperation among ourselves to ensure energy security in all its aspects which will make great contributions to sustainable economic development, betterment of social welfare and environmental protection of our people

15. Considering Information Technology (IT) to be a core element in the knowledge-based economy, we stand ready to foster IT industry by strengthening cooperation among ourselves, in order to share and fully enjoy benefits of IT.

16. We encourage cooperation in the field of agriculture among the Member States, which may promote national and regional agribusiness enterprise development and economic growth. Moreover, it can serve to enhance regional peace, security and stability.

17. We recognize that cooperation in the field of tourism will promote closer people-to-people contacts and cultural ties among the Member States and will contribute towards economic development, including attracting investments and infrastructure projects.

18. We recognize the importance of environmental issues as an area of active cooperation among the Member States and are committed to cooperate closely in jointly addressing the adverse impact of climate change and other phenomena affecting the environment.

19. We recognize the importance to initiate deliberations on security issues in accordance with the provisions of the CICA Catalogue of CBMs.

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20. Today we have also reviewed the tasks given by the Heads of State and Government in the Second CICA Summit of 2006 in Almaty and adopted Conclusions of the Third Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs reflecting the results of the work done by the Member States in order to accomplish and to continue our work for the preparations to the Third CICA Summit of 2010.