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**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

**СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

№ 522

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and has the honour to provide the written contribution by the CICA Secretariat at the Sixteenth OSCE Ministerial Meeting to be held in Helsinki on 4-5 December 2008.

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

*Enclosure:
as stated on 2 p.*

Almaty, 13 November 2008



**SECRETARIAT OF THE
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE
Vienna**

**Written contribution by the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction
and Confidence Building Measures in Asia at the Sixteenth OSCE
Ministerial Meeting
Helsinki, 4-5 December 2008**

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) expresses its gratitude to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the invitation to attend the Sixteenth Meeting of Ministerial Council. The Secretariat is committed to the noble objective of achieving peace, security and stability in Asia and worldwide.

The initiative to convene CICA was taken by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of newly independent Kazakhstan during his address at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on October 5, 1992. At the heart of the initiative was the idea to re-start the previously abortive efforts to create an efficacious and universal structure to safeguard security in Asia and move towards a unified Asian structure for collective security on step by step basis. This proposal immediately received support from a number of Asian countries as well as from the United Nations and the process of convening the Conference took off.

Since 1999, when *the Declaration on the Principles guiding Relations between the CICA Member States* was adopted, CICA has issued a series of declarations and taken various measures for creating a framework for its functioning. The adoption of *the Almaty Act* – the Charter of the Conference and *the Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations* at the First CICA Summit in 2002 was an important milestone in the development of the CICA process.

CICA, inter-alia, stands for the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs of the Member States, peaceful settlement of disputes, disarmament and arms control, and economic, social and cultural cooperation to create environment of friendship and stability in Asia.

Twenty States Members of CICA account for nearly ninety percent of the territory and population of Asia. Republic of Kazakhstan is acting as the Chairman until 2010.

The CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) of 2004 aims at ushering in an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship in Asia and lays down various measures, where as the Cooperative Approach prescribes procedures for implementation of CBMs in economic, environmental and human dimensions, fight against new challenges and threats and military-political dimension. It is believed that implementation of CBMs among the Member States will create an environment conducive for sustainable development of the Asian continent.

In June 2006, the permanent Secretariat of the CICA was established in Almaty after the adoption of its Statute. The Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the CICA Secretariat regarding the Terms and Conditions of the Secretariat's Locations in the Territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan was signed in June 2007 and ratified by Kazakhstan in March 2008.

Together, these documents lay down the institutional structures and procedural mechanisms for the organization's functioning. CICA focuses its activity on Confidence Building Measures as instruments and tangible steps for strengthening security and cooperation in the region.

The Secretariat comprises of Executive Director, nominated by the Chairing country, Deputy Executive Director and Professional Personnel seconded by the Member States.

The process of implementation of Confidence Building Measures has already commenced. Eleven Member States are acting as coordinators or co-coordinators of specific projects of CBMs in the areas of human dimension, new threats and challenges, development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors, combating illicit drugs, national disaster management, information technology, energy security, development of small and medium enterprises and tourism.

External relations of CICA are governed by Guidelines for CICA's External Relations with a view to establish contacts and links with regional and international organizations and fora in support of its efforts to enhance peace, security and economic development in Asia. In 2007 CICA was conferred observer status by the United Nations General Assembly. On the sidelines of the Third Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held in Almaty on 25 August 2008, CICA signed Memoranda of Understanding with Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and International Organization for Migration (IOM). Memoranda of Understanding with South Asian Association for Cooperation (SAARC) and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) are under consideration.

OSCE is an observer to CICA. Seven Member States of CICA are also members of OSCE. There is considerable convergence in the aims and activities of the two bodies in the area of combating terrorism, economic and environmental activities and military-political dimension. There is, therefore, great potential for cooperation between CICA and OSCE.

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe the assurances of its highest consideration and wish the Participants of the Meeting successful and productive work.