

MC.IO/2/05  
3 December 2005

ENGLISH only



**PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE OSCE**

Delegation of the Republic of Kazakhstan on behalf of the participating states of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) has the honour to distribute materials on CICA activities and documents among all participants of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Ljubljana.

- Enclosure: 1. Information on CICA – 3 p.  
2. Almaty Act – 6 p.  
3. CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures – 3 p.

## CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA

### **Background**

The initiative on convocation of the CICA was announced by the President of Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev during the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly (1992). The main idea of the initiative is to create an effective structure for dialogue on security ISSUES in Asia.

1993-1995. A number of meetings of experts from several Asian states took place. The main achievement of that period was reaching consent on elaborating common approaches to the problems of security and cooperation among the countries of the Asian region.

March 1995. The Special Working Group (SWG) aimed at further development of the process and the preparation of the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA participating countries has been established by the decision of the Member States. Several meetings were held on a regular basis.

February 1996. The meeting of the Deputy Foreign Ministers, Almaty. The representatives of the Asian countries agreed that the development of the CICA process would take a long time and require joint efforts of all member states. The discussions have demonstrated that the states of the region have an intention to work thoroughly on elaborating the basic draft documents and defining the directions of future cooperation.

December 1997. The second meeting of the CICA Deputy Foreign Ministers. Participants adopted a Statement, reflecting the joint vision on the CICA development. SWG activities on finalizing the text of the Declaration on Principles has been continued.

October 1998. The international colloquium “*Asian security in the context of convocation of CICA*”, held in Almaty, became an important event in the development of the CICA process. The exchange of opinions on all aspects of Asian security with an emphasis on the idea of creating regional security system took place.

September 14, 1999. The meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA Member States. *The Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations Between CICA Member States* was signed. Thus, the CICA Member States, recognizing the UN Charter and international law as the international legal basis of the CICA activity, adopted the following as the basis for their relations among themselves as well as for the future concrete activities, measures and mechanisms to be launched in order to ensure security and stability in the region: sovereign equality, refraining from the threat or use force, territorial integrity, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, disarmament and arms control, cooperation in economic, social and cultural spheres and respect for human rights and fundamental freedom. The participants have supported the development of the CICA process as a regional forum. The Joint Statement denouncing the acts of terrorism in the Osh region and expressing solidarity and support to the government of Kyrgyzstan was adopted as well.

June 2000. The international workshop on “*The ways and methods of implementation of Declaration of principles, guiding relations between the CICA Member States*” was held. The main objective of the seminar was to elaborate and exchange views on the content of the document planned to be signed by Heads of States and Governments during the First CICA Summit. The ideas and recommendations expressed during the workshop were used for elaborating the Summit's documents.

1999-2002. The regular sessions of the Special Working Group and Senior Official Committee within the CICA framework took place. As a result the elaboration of the Summit draft document – Almaty Act – was completed.

**First CICA Summit.** On June 3-5, 2002 the First CICA Summit was held in Almaty with participation of the Head of States and Governments, as well as their Special Representatives of 15 Member States, representatives of 9 Observers-States and the leadership of the OSCE, UN and League of Arab States (LAS).

At the Summit *the Almaty Act and the CICA Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations* were signed.

The participants of the Summit paid a special attention to the fact of the creation of a new political process, aimed at opening new possibilities for multilateral dialogue, equal interaction of the Asian countries in order to strengthen security and stability, creating an atmosphere of trust and cooperation. The leaders of the Asian countries elaborated the new principles of the security in Asia, based on trust, respect and cooperation. The Almaty Act and the CICA Declaration reflect these principles.

The participants emphasized that the Almaty Act was a breakthrough document, which contained the innovative norms and reflected the Member States approaches to enhancing security. In particular, it relates to parallel application of the Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and settlement of disputes, elaboration of the CBMs Catalogue, priority for the elimination of the WMD, creation of the nuclear weapons free zones in Asia, adoption of the obligations in the struggle against terrorism, separatism and drug trafficking, illegal arms trade, transnational crime.

The CICA Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations, as a reaction to the terrorism and extremism challenges, reflects a common approach to fight this evil. The Member States not only condemn the methods, acts and practice of terrorism, but underline the necessity for the dialogue among the civilizations as a main way of eliminating the breeding grounds of terrorism, preventing conflicts between different cultures and nations.

September 2002. The workshop “*CICA: prospects development*” took place in Almaty. The officials and scientists from the CICA countries discussed ways of further development of the process. The workshop discussions were focused on establishing the CICA Secretariat and elaboration of the CICA CBMs Catalogue.

During the discussions the participants came to an understanding that for the implementation of the First CICA Summit decisions, it was required to establish at least two Special Working Groups: to elaborate the CICA Secretariat Statute and the CICA Rules of Procedure; and to elaborate the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures.

2002-2004. The relevant SOC meetings on development of above-mentioned draft documents were held.

October 2004. The meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA Member States. The official joining of Thailand the CICA as the 17<sup>th</sup> Member-State on the eve of the meeting became a significant event in the framework of the process itself. An adoption of *the Catalogue of the CICA Confidence Building Measures, the CICA Rules of Procedure and the Declaration* became a major result of the CFMA.

The Declaration reflects a consolidated vision and position of the Member States on key issues of global and regional security. The Heads of delegation have emphasized need for working out a common approach for solution of the unsettled issues, further interaction in the context of the implementation of the CBMs, mentioned in Catalogue. The participants have underlined an importance of the Catalogue accepted. For the first time in the history of the Asian continent such a comprehensive document, providing multilateral cooperation on a broad spectrum of the issues of stability and security has appeared.

### **CICA prospects**

From the beginning of 2005 the SOC and relevant SWG meetings were held. The decision on creation of SWG on elaborating implementation of the CICA CBMs in economic, environmental and human dimensions, including new threats and challenges, was accepted and corresponding document (*“Terms of Reference”*), specifying its activity, was adopted.

February-March 2006. The proposal to hold *Joint consultative CICA-OSCE forum “XXI century – new challenges to security and stability”* was supported by the CICA Member States. The forthcoming forum has a great significance to strengthen the image of the CICA and its institutional basis.

2006. The Second CICA Summit is to take place in Almaty. At the Summit it is planned to adopt *Final Political Document* and sign *the CICA Secretariat Statute*. On the eve of the Summit inauguration of the CICA Secretariat will be held.

Next steps of the CICA activities will be aimed to continue joint efforts to elaborate implementation of confidence building measures, mentioned in the CICA CBMs Catalogue, as well as elaborating a common approach to the new threats and challenges to the security in the Asia.

## Almaty Act

### Preamble

We, the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

Having met in Almaty at a time of profound changes which are taking place in Asia and the world to set up our vision of security in Asia and enhance our capabilities for co-operation on issues of common concern for our peoples;

Recognising the close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world;

Committing ourselves to working to ensure peace and security in Asia and making it a region open to dialogue and co-operation;

Believing that the CICA process presents new opportunities for co-operation, peace and security in Asia;

Declaring our determination to form in Asia a common and indivisible area of security, where all states peacefully co-exist, and their peoples live in conditions of peace, freedom and prosperity, and confident that peace, security and development complement, sustain and reinforce each other;

Reaffirming our commitment to the UN Charter, as well as to the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations Among CICA Member States, which is an integral part of the Almaty Act, as the basis for our future co-operation;

Considering that all aspects of comprehensive security in Asia, including its political and military aspects, confidence-building measures, economic and environmental issues, humanitarian and cultural co-operation, are interdependent and interrelated and should be pursued actively;

Confident that full, equal and comprehensive implementation and observance of the principles, provisions and commitments enshrined in the Almaty Act will create the conditions for advanced co-operation among the CICA Member States and will guide us towards a better future, which our peoples deserve;

Have adopted the following:

### **I. Security and co-operation**

1. The main objective and thrust of the CICA will be to enhance co-operation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

2. In order to achieve this objective, the Member States will take the necessary steps to develop the CICA as a forum for dialogue, consultations and adoption of decisions and measures on the basis of consensus on security issues in Asia.

3. We call upon and continue to encourage all Member States who are parties to a dispute to settle this peacefully in conformity with the principles envisaged in the UN Charter.

4. Recognising the contribution which increased trade and economic co-operation can make for the prosperity and stability in Asia and to the well-being of their peoples, we will make further efforts to promote initiatives in these fields, as

mentioned in the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States. We also recognise the need for better co-operation on all issues which constitute risks to the environment.

5. The Member States reiterate their belief that protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the UN Charter and the international conventions and instruments to which they are parties contributes to the consolidation of peace, security and stability in Asia. They also declare their readiness to further their co-operation in this field in a spirit of friendliness.

6. We consider that humanitarian issues, such as natural disasters and refugee flows, are areas of common concern since they also affect stability and security in the region. The Member States are resolved to developing measures, where necessary, to address these issues through co-operation in the region as well as with the UN and other relevant international organisations.

7. We believe that enhancing mutual respect, mutual understanding and tolerance in the relations among civilisations is an important goal for our times. Noting with satisfaction the designation of the first year of the millennium as the year of Dialogue among Civilisations, we shall encourage and strengthen this process.

8. We consider globalisation as a challenge of our time. While it could offer certain opportunities for growth and development, at present the benefits of globalisation are unevenly shared among the nations and much remains to be done to ensure that its benefits be comprehensively and equitably distributed at the global level.

9. Joint actions and co-ordinated responses are necessary to deal with challenges and threats that our states and peoples are faced with.

## **II. Challenges to security**

10. The Member States seek to promote regional and international security and stability, which will also contribute to peaceful settlement of existing and prevention of the emergence of new crisis situations and disputes.

11. The continuing existence and proliferation in all its aspects of nuclear weapons, as well as chemical and biological weapons, pose a great threat to all humanity. The Member States pledge to support the efforts for the global elimination of all weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and therefore they commit themselves to an increased co-operation for the prevention of proliferation of all such weapons, including nuclear weapons, which constitute a particular danger to international peace and security.

12. With the end of the Cold War, the opportunity now exists for the international community to pursue nuclear disarmament as a matter of the highest priority. We shall encourage all nations to keep all options open for achieving this aim, including the possibilities of convening an international conference to identify ways of eliminating nuclear dangers and negotiating a comprehensive and verifiable nuclear weapons convention. We affirm the importance of the early realisation of the universal adherence to the multilaterally negotiated instruments on the elimination of WMD, and

urge those states not yet party to these instruments to accede to them as soon as possible.

13. We support the establishment of zones free from nuclear weapons and other WMD in Asia on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned. The establishment of such zones in regions for which consensus resolutions of the UN General Assembly exist, such as the Middle East and Central Asia, should be encouraged; in this context, we invite adherence to internationally negotiated disarmament and non-proliferation instruments in accordance with all the provisions of the relevant consensus resolutions of the UN and the positions of states concerned on the implementation of these resolutions.

14. The Member States reaffirm their belief in the need of ensuring security at the lowest level of armament and military forces. We recognise the necessity to curb excessive and destabilising accumulation of conventional armaments. We emphasise the importance of the maintenance of the international strategic stability to world peace and security and to the continued progress of arms control and disarmament. We emphasise the importance of multilateral negotiations on the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

15. We believe that direct or indirect threat or use of force in violation of the UN Charter and international law against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the states; denial of the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under foreign occupation (a right which has to be exercised in accordance with the UN Charter and international law); interference in the internal affairs of states and offensive strategic doctrines pose threats to regional and international peace.

16. The Member States unconditionally and unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as any support or acquiescence to it and the failure to directly condemn it. The threat posed by terrorism has been increasingly growing over the last decade. Terrorism in all its forms is a trans-national threat, which endangers the lives of individuals and peoples and undermines the territorial integrity, unity, sovereignty and security of states. The menace of terrorism has been magnified by its close links with drug trafficking, illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) and their transfers in any form to terrorist groups, racist ideologies, separatism, all forms of extremism which present basic sources of financing and providing manpower for terrorist activities. We regard as criminal all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and declare our determination to co-operate on bilateral as well as multilateral basis to combat terrorism including its possible sources. In order to eradicate this menace to peace and security, we shall reinforce and unite our efforts in order not to allow terrorism in any form to be prepared, assisted, launched and financed from the territory of any state and we shall refuse to provide terrorists with safe haven and protection.

17. We recognise that implementation of the UN Conventions will contribute to tackling the problems of terrorism and support the elaboration of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

18. Separatism is one of the main threats and challenges to the security and stability, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of states. The Member States shall not support on the territory of another Member State any separatist movements and entities, and, if such emerge, not to establish political, economic and other kinds of relations with them, not to allow the territories and communications of the Member States to be used by the above-mentioned movements and entities, and not to render them any kind of economic, financial and other assistance. We reaffirm the right of people living under foreign occupation for self-determination in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

19. We reject the use of religion as a pretext by terrorists and separatist movements and groups to achieve their objectives. We also reject all forms of extremism and will work to promote tolerance among our nations and peoples.

20. Illicit drug trafficking represents a major threat to internal and international stability and security of our states and our continent as a whole as well as to the well-being of our peoples. This problem is closely linked with the socio-economic and political situation in several regions, terrorist activities across the world, and international criminal groups engaged in trans-national crime, money laundering and illicit SALW trafficking. We recognise that there are several states in Asia which require priority attention and assistance by the international community in order to combat drug trafficking. We also recognise the need for effective strategies to reduce production, supply and demand for drugs. In this respect, we will co-operate to monitor suspicious financial flows, including issues related to incomes and transparency of bank operations in accordance with the existing international legal instruments, and to identify the sources of production, consumption and trafficking of drugs. In order to assist the practical implementation of these tasks, multinational training courses and exercises as well as exchange of information among the competent authorities of the Member States will be promoted. We also call upon major consuming countries to play a more active role in providing equipment, training and educational courses, rehabilitation, technical and financial assistance to Asian drug producing and transit countries. Adoption and implementation of crop substitution plans and alternative development strategies in drug producing regions in Asia should also be encouraged to tackle the menace of illicit drugs more effectively.

21. We also recognise corruption as a trans-national crime which calls for concerted multilateral action. In this regard, we emphasise the need for banning the transfer of illicit funds and wealth and also the need for enhanced international co-operation in tracing and repatriating such assets.

22. The Member States recognise that illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons poses a threat to peace and security and is directly linked with terrorist activity, separatist movements, drug trafficking and armed conflicts. In this context, we



underline the importance of the Firearms Protocol reached in the framework of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Programme of Action adopted by the UN Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects which was held in New York in July 2001.

23. We are determined to co-operate with each other on bilateral and multilateral basis to prevent such threats to peace and security in Asia.

### **III. Confidence Building Measures**

24. In the context of achieving CICA objectives, we will take the necessary steps for the elaboration and implementation of measures aimed at enhancing co-operation and creating an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship. Such measures should be in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, CICA, and international law. In doing so, we will take into account specific features and characteristics in various regions in Asia and proceed on a gradual and voluntary basis.

25. We encourage all states in the region having disputes to make efforts to solve their disputes peacefully through negotiations in accordance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and international law. We recognise that the resolution of territorial and other disputes and implementation of arms control agreements may, depending upon specific situations, facilitate implementation of confidence building measures (CBMs); on the other hand, we also recognise that implementation of CBMs may, depending upon specific situations, facilitate, or create a conducive climate for, the resolution of disputes and arms control agreements.

26. We recognise that disarmament and arms control, universality of all internationally negotiated instruments on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, promoting non-proliferation, have a significant role in enhancing confidence building among regional states. We affirm that being a State Party to the relevant internationally negotiated instruments should not be interpreted as affecting the inalienable right of all parties to those treaties to develop research, production and use of nuclear technology, chemical and biological materials and equipment for peaceful purposes in accordance with the provisions of these instruments. We reiterate the importance of negative security assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon states and express our readiness to consider further steps on this subject which could take the form of an internationally legally binding instrument.

27. The Member States will prepare with mutual agreement a “CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures” and proceed on a gradual basis for its implementation. The Catalogue, which will be regularly reviewed and further developed, may include, among others, measures in the military–political, economic and environmental, humanitarian and cultural spheres.

### **IV. Structure and institutions of CICA**

28. In order to facilitate its efficient functioning, we have decided to provide for CICA the necessary structure and institutions, consisting mainly of the following:

#### ***1. Regular meetings***

29. The meetings of the Heads of State or Government will be convened every four years in order to conduct consultations, review the progress of, and set priorities for CICA activities. Special meetings may be convened as necessary by consensus. Summit meetings will be preceded by meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs.

30. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs will meet every two years. Their meetings will be the central forum for consultations and examination of all issues related to CICA activities. Special meetings may be convened as necessary by consensus.

31. The Committee of Senior Officials will meet at least once a year to follow-up on previous CICA decisions, carry out consultations on the current CICA issues, oversee the work of Special Working Groups and co-ordinate the work of other meetings. The Committee will also make the necessary preparations for the organisation of the Summit and ministerial meetings, including elaboration of draft documents.

32. Special Working Groups will be established to study specific issues relevant to CICA's areas of interest and to carry out the tasks mandated to them. They will submit the results of their work to the Committee of Senior Officials.

## ***2. Specialised meetings***

33. The Member States may agree to convene meetings of other ministers or of the competent national agencies and institutions in order to discuss issues of a specific and/or technical nature.

### ***3. Academic and professional inputs***

34. Opportunities will be provided as necessary for academic and professional inputs and reports, as well as assistance and contributions to publications which CICA may decide to produce.

### ***4. Secretariat***

35. In order to provide follow-up and administrative support for regular meetings and political consultations and other activities mentioned in the Almaty Act, we support the establishment of a Secretariat of the CICA. We task our Ministers of Foreign Affairs to finalise the elaboration of all aspects related to the establishment of the Secretariat.

**Done in Almaty, June 4, 2002**

**CICA CATALOGUE  
OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES (CBMs)**

The Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

With the aim of enhancing cooperation, creating and strengthening an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship on the Asian continent,

Acting in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, Almaty Act and other CICA documents as well as universally recognized norms and principles of international law,

Taking into account specific situations and peculiarities of different regions of Asia,

Have adopted the following principles and measures, leading to strengthening of confidence on the Asian continent and have agreed to their realization in practice on bilateral and/or multilateral basis.

**1. General provisions.**

1.1 The Member States recognize that the confidence building measures, on the one hand, peaceful settlement of disputes and implementation of agreements on arms control and disarmament, on the other, are complementary and may, depending upon specific situations, be pursued simultaneously by the concerned States through mutual consent.

1.2 The diversity in Asia underscores the importance of measures in military-political dimension as well as in economic, environmental and human dimensions.

1.3 The CICA CBMs will be applied on a gradual and voluntary basis. The CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and measures identified in it are recommendatory in nature. Any Member State may select certain measures identified in this Catalogue for implementation, where feasible and appropriate. Measures selected by the Member States should be pursued in good faith and to the full extent possible.

1.4 Confidence building measures of the Catalogue are without prejudice to other CBMs, security agreements and/or arrangements on arms control and disarmament, to which the Member States are parties, and these measures will not affect the rights and obligations under these agreements and/or arrangements.

1.5 Nothing in this Catalogue prevents the Member States from adopting other confidence building measures among themselves or with other states.

1.6 The Member States concerned may exchange information within the context of CBMs agreed upon by them. They may also consider submitting this information to the CICA Secretariat for further dissemination.

1.7 The Member State receiving information under the provisions of this Catalogue cannot disclose, publish or transfer it to any third party without the consent of the Member States providing such information.

1.8 The Member States will regularly review implementation of this Catalogue in order to identify the most effective and suitable CBMs for wider implementation in the CICA region and, when necessary, modify or amend those CBMs by consensus.

## **2. Confidence building measures in military-political dimension**

In order to ensure lasting stability, strengthen mutual confidence in military-political dimension, while taking into account their legitimate security interests, the Member States may undertake the following measures:

2.1 Exchange of information, the scope, feasibility and modalities of which will be agreed by the Member States concerned, in accordance with their national laws and regulations, on the following:

- a) components of armed forces;
- b) defense budgets;
- c) presence of foreign military contingents on the territories of the Member States, if release of this information is permitted by the country deploying such a contingent.
- d) notification of planned military activities, including exercises with participation of foreign military contingents, where modalities and parameters of such notification are agreed upon by the Member States concerned.

2.2 Inviting observers from Member States to military exercises.

2.3 Considering mechanisms such as consultation on unexpected and hazardous incidents of a military nature, especially if such incidents occur in close proximity to the border areas of the Member States.

2.4 Developing the following forms of cooperation between their armed forces:

- a) mutual visits by the military authorities and representatives of defense colleges;
- b) mutual invitations for participation in national holidays, cultural and sport events;
- c) information exchange on CV's of top military personnel;
- d) other forms of cooperation as agreed by the Member States.

2.5 Exchange of information on the status of their accession to or ratification of multilateral instruments on arms control and disarmament as well as conventions on the outer space.

## **3. Fight against new challenges and threats**

3.1 The Member States will, in accordance with their national legislation, take cooperative measures in curbing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and in preventing activities of separatist and extremist organizations, with the aim of promoting security and stability of each Member State.

3.2 The Member States will exchange information concerning fight against terrorist, separatist, extremist activities and organized criminal groups and when necessary, develop mechanisms to combat their activities. For this purpose, the Member States may also exchange information on their national authorities in law enforcement sphere and assist in establishing and strengthening contacts between these authorities.

3.3 The Member States may take measures to strengthen cooperation in sharing information in order to deal effectively with proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

3.4 The Member States will exchange information on the measures they have taken to curb drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, trans-boundary organized crime, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) as well as smuggling of explosives and poisonous materials.

3.5 The Member States will exchange information on the status of their accession to or ratification of the relevant international legal instruments on terrorism and organized crime as well as the steps they have taken to promote fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and organized crime in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

#### **4. Confidence building measures in economic, environmental and human dimensions**

In order to promote and strengthen mutual confidence in economic, environmental and human dimensions the Member States may adopt the following measures in accordance with their national laws and regulations:

4.1 Establishment of a common database and a system of data exchange in trade and economic spheres.

4.2 Development and application of common programs on environment protection, especially in border areas, without prejudice to their rights and obligations under relevant bilateral and multilateral instruments.

4.3 Exchange of information on natural and industrial disasters on their territories which in their view may affect their neighbors.

4.4 Exchange of information on their national authorities responsible for development of international tourism and tourist infrastructure and assistance in establishing and strengthening contacts between these authorities.

4.5 Exchange of information regarding suspicious financial transactions, illegal financial operations and assistance in establishing and strengthening contacts between appropriate authorities.

4.6 Exchange of information on their national authorities responsible for disaster management, search-rescue operations with a view to facilitating the establishment and strengthening of contacts between these authorities. Where necessary, the Member States will identify a coordination body, authorized to organize interaction of disaster management and rescue services, and creation of a system of assistance in case of natural disasters and emergency situations.

4.7 Elaboration and implementation of joint projects, aimed at disseminating information on culture and traditions of their peoples, promoting mutual respect and good-neighborly relations between peoples.

4.8 Promotion of contacts between their scientific and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations, including scientific exchanges, exchange of students, joint events with the purpose of, inter alia, elaborating proposals and projects for the achievement of CICA objectives.

4.9 Promotion of dialogue among civilizations, including dialogue among religions.

**Almaty, October 22, 2004**