

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND GOALS OF
CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA
(CICA)**



**Roundtable Session
Report**



**Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamabad and
Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad**

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CGSS
Center for Global & Strategic
Studies

3rd Floor, 1-E, Ali Plaza, Jinnah Avenue, Islamabad, Pakistan

Tel: +92-51-8319682

Email: info@cgss.com.pk Web: www.cgss.com.pk

Roundtable Session Report

“Current Activities and Goals of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)”



Jointly organized by
The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Islamabad &
Center for Global & Strategic Studies, Islamabad
On 28th May 2018 at
Islamabad Club

Brief of the Event

Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad in collaboration with The Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized a Roundtable Conference on current activities and goals of the “Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)” on 28th May 2018 at Islamabad Club.

During the roundtable session, His Excellency Barlybay Sadykov – Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan and Ambassador Gong Jianwei– Executive Director of CICA briefed the participants about the current activities and goals of the CICA. The session was chaired by Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, (Retd) –President CGSS.

The speakers of the roundtable stated that the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum based on recognition for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world. About 60 people from different sections of the society attended the event

OPENING REMARKS

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI(M), (Retd) –President CGSS

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI(M), (Retd) extended a warm welcome to the worthy guests for their participation in the event and offered special gratitude to Ambassador Gong Jianwei and team members of CICA on the behalf of Centre for Global & Strategic Studies. He said:-



It is a pleasure to have you all here to discuss current activities and goals of CICA. On behalf of the Centre for Global and Strategic Studies, I would like to welcome you all and express my gratitude for making this collaborative effort of enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

Gentlemen, there is a close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world. We all believe that peace and security in Asia can be achieved through dialogue and cooperation leading to a common indivisible area of security in Asia where all states co-exist peacefully and their people live in peace, freedom and prosperity. Gentlemen, there is no doubt that peace, stability and security of the region can only be attained through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

We all should join hands to combat illicit drug production and trafficking and to promote trade and economic cooperation for the prosperity and stability in Asia. Moreover, by cooperating on all issues relating to environment there is a dire need for prevention of proliferation and elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

As CICA focuses on developing measures to address humanitarian issues and to promote mutual respect by promoting understanding and tolerance in the relations among civilizations, we all should be united in facilitating the implementation of Confidence Building Measures among member states for a protected and stable Asia. Gentlemen, keeping in view all the above mentioned objectives we should also pay heed on providing sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty

to the states; by refraining from the threat or use of force; by focusing on the territorial integrity of the States; by peaceful settlement of disputes and non-interference in internal affairs of States and by enhancing economic, social and cultural cooperation among member states.

Having said all this, I hope this session will prove to be informative and productive for all of us present here today. Thank you.



THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA

The idea of CICA was conceptualised by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev during the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 5 October 1992. Today, CICA has evolved into one of the valuable and representative forums in Asia with a large number of member states and wide coverage. It provides a useful platform for relevant parties to enhance exchanges, strengthen cooperation and deepen mutual trust through dialogue, while playing an increasingly important role in promoting regional stability and prosperity, and building a community of shared future for mankind.

His Excellency Mr. Barlybay Sadykov –Ambassador of the Republic Of Kazakhstan to Pakistan



The Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan H.E Mr. Barlybay Sadykov expressed gratitude to all the participants for their attendance. His speech comprised of the following important components:
 Distinguished President of CGSS, Distinguished Executive Director of CICA, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Assalaam-aleikum and good afternoon.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for participation at the round table devoted to CICA. I would also like to express my words of appreciation to the CICA Executive

Director H.E. Mr. Gong Jianwei who agreed to participate at this meeting and inform us about current activities and future plans of CICA. I also commend CGSS for partnership with the Embassy of Kazakhstan in organizing this event which will contribute to better understanding and promotion of goals of CICA and will form solid foundation for our future cooperation.

Last October we marked the 25th anniversary of the CICA process. The first international initiative put forward by the leader and President of independent Kazakhstan H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, it was the idea of establishing CICA. He announced this initiative at the 47th Session of the UN General Assembly in 1992. It was time of uncertainty, immediately after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and establishment of multipolar system when many regional actors became more influential. The rise in the number of regional conflicts, including in Tajikistan, Transdniestra, Nagorno-Karabakh etc. showed the need for a new formula to meet challenges. Kazakhstan was seeking creation of new mechanism of collective security at the core of which – multilateral diplomacy, dialogue and consultations to reach mutual solutions to regional conflicts.

In June 2002, in Almaty, the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of 16 CICA countries, marked the formal birth of the conference as a multilateral forum for deepening cooperation for peace, security and stability in the region. In 2004, the CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) was elaborated as a basic document for practical activity defined in five dimensions: military and political issues, the fight against new challenges and threats, economy, the environment, and human issues.

Today CICA is a forum consisting of 26 states representing almost 90 percent of territory and population of Asia. 9 countries and 5 international organizations are observers in CICA. CICA actively cooperates with UNESCAP, UNODC, UNRCCA, IOM, SCO, OSCE, OEC and several other regional organizations.



At the last CICA Summit in 2014 Heads of State and Governments adopted Declaration which called upon members to seek common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security; build a security environment that fulfills the expectation of the Member States based on commitment to mutual trust, good neighborliness and cooperation among Member States. Leaders also recognized that CICA is an important conference for exploring and enhancing confidence building measures through continuous dialogue and interaction, comprehensive exchange of views and close cooperation.

Today we are witnessing new stage of rivalry in the world and between regional powers. Due to different interests on many issues of international agenda, the world is suffering because of mistrust amongst the states. CICA activities can greatly help to decrease tensions through practical implementation of CBMs in military-political, new challenges, including terrorism, illegal drug trafficking, organized crime, economic, ecological and humanitarian dimensions.

People's Republic of China as the current CICA chair greatly contributed to the CICA process, promoting CICA institution building, adopting and implementing CBMs like initiative to convene the CICA Non-Governmental Forum, CICA Youth Council and the CICA Business Council.

CICA along with political and security issues, also promotes development issues. For the implementation of the CICA CBMs, Member States in the economic sphere, pay attention to the promotion of small and medium-sized businesses, trade, infrastructure development and transport corridors, telecommunications, the expansion of opportunities in agriculture, widening of cooperation in the sphere of tourism and other directions.

Specialised Business Forum dedicated to problems and solutions in the export of consumer goods in the CICA region, was held in Moscow in October last year. To facilitate civil communication between CICA member states seminar was held in Kazakhstan – and participants visited the Baikonur space site for a rocket launch.

Infrastructure development and transport corridors is one of important dimensions in CICA. China's Belt and Road initiative fits perfectly into the ideology of the conference. As President of Kazakhstan N.Nazarbayev underlined at the High level Forum on OBOR last year, "One of the most important conditions for the development of OBOR idea is establishment of mutual confidence among involved countries and their readiness to equal and all sided cooperation. Further meetings and cooperation within the CICA would contribute to its goals" OBOR is a unique opportunity to collectively create at the Eurasian continent area of stability and prosperity.

Another important field of cooperation is countering terrorism and extremism. Last September the Secretariat of the CICA and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO RATS) signed the Protocol which provides for joint efforts towards counter terrorism and other threats and challenges related to terrorism.

Kazakhstan highly appreciates support provided by Pakistan to the efforts of Kazakhstan in development of CICA and increasing confidence building measures in Asia. Participation of Pakistan in CICA is an important contribution to the process of establishment of the area of security on Asian continent.

In light of new threats and challenges we all face, we strongly believe that it is time to consider first at the experts level establishment of the Organization on security and development in Asia by transforming CICA into a full-fledged international organization. We share the view on the need to carefully study this issue and I would like to invite research institutions of Pakistan to make analysis of this idea and make their recommendations which will greatly help us in finding optimal formula for establishment of such security structure in Asia.

Thank you for your attention.

Ambassador Gong Jianwei –Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat



The session further proceeded with a speech by the Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat, Ambassador Gong Jianwei who began his remarks by extending appreciation to President CGSS, Ambassadors and the distinguished guests. He expressed gratitude to The Embassy of Republic of Kazakhstan and CGSS for organizing the roundtable interactive session and for the opportunity to present on CICA in Pakistan.

Commencing his briefing Ambassador Gong Jianwei explained that Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. It is a forum based on the recognition that there is close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and in the rest of the world. He further commented that the Member States, while affirming their commitment to the UN Charter, believe that peace and security in Asia can be achieved through dialogue and cooperation leading to a common indivisible area of security in Asia where all states co-exist peacefully and their peoples live in peace, freedom and prosperity.

Ambassador Gong Jianwei highlighted the significant role of H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. He stated that the idea of convening the CICA was first proposed by H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. The moving spirit behind this initiative was the President's aspiration to set up an efficient and acceptable structure for ensuring peace and security in Asia. This initiative was supported by a number of Asian countries who felt that such a structure was the need of the time.

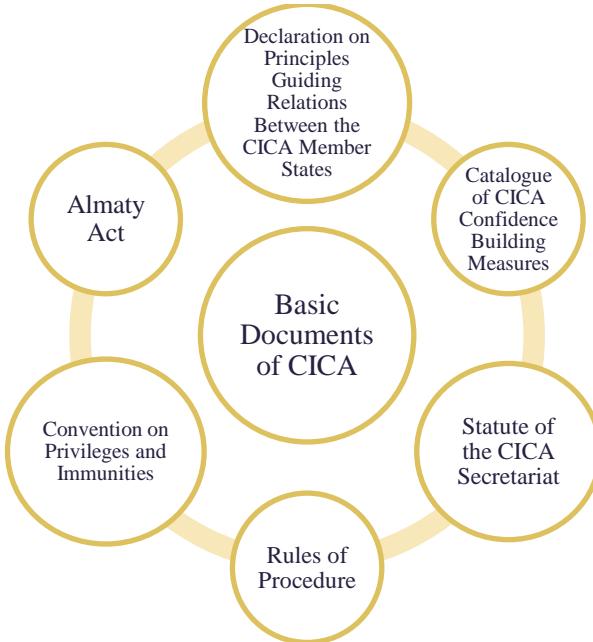


Diagram 1

Presentation by CICA Secretariat: “Review of CICA Development”

The presentation of the CICA delegation emphasised on the two documents which set the framework of CICA are Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States adopted at the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Almaty on 14 September 1999 and Almaty Act, the charter of the CICA, adopted at the First Summit Meeting held in Almaty on 4 June 2002. These two documents became the stepping stone towards future evolution of the CICA.

Basic Objectives Enshrined in the Almaty Act:

- Develop CICA as a platform for dialogue and co-operation for promoting peace, security and stability in Asia
- Prevention of proliferation and eventual elimination of weapons of mass destruction
- Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with UN Charter
- Eradicate the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations
- Combat illicit drug production and trafficking
- Promote trade and economic cooperation for the prosperity and stability in Asia
- Cooperation on all issues relating to environment
- Develop measures to address humanitarian issues like natural disasters
- Combat trans-national crime

- Promote mutual respect, understanding and tolerance among civilizations

Discussing the basic framework of CICA it was mentioned that following the spirit of the founding documents, CICA pursues its policy based on the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs of the Member States and economic, social and cultural cooperation to achieve its main objective of enhancing co-operation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia. All decisions within CICA framework are taken by consensus. Ambassador Gong Jianwei stated that the region lacks an overall security mechanism, there are no tailor made solutions in Asia and hope that CICA can become a template.

For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia. Fifteen states meeting this criterion signed the Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States at the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in 1999 and became founding members of CICA. The first phase was the initial consultations (1992-1999), second phase as the formal convening of CICA and adoption of basic documents (1999-2006) and the third phase was further evolution of CICA and implementation of confidence building measures (2007 onwards) (Diagram 1).

Ambassador Gong Jianwei with reference to the presentation said that presently CICA has twenty six Member States accounting for nearly ninety percent of the territory and population of Asia. Nine countries and five multi-national organizations, including United Nations, have the observer status.

Further, the structure of CICA was highlighted in the presentation. The highest decision making organ of CICA is the Meeting of the CICA Heads of State and Government. The CICA Summit is convened every four years in order to conduct consultations, review the progress of, and set priorities for CICA activities. Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs is required to be held every two years. Ministerial Meetings are the central forum for consultations and examination of all issues related to CICA activities. Committee of Senior Officials meets as often as necessary, but not less than 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. Special Working Group studies specific issues, carries out the tasks mandated to it and submits reports to the Committee of Senior Officials.

Creating an environment of confidence among Member States is central to the basic objectives of CICA. CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures describes the various measures and Cooperative Approach for the implementation of the CICA CBMs lays down the procedures for implementing the confidence building measures. Within the framework of the Catalogue, the Confidence Building Measures are categorised under five broad dimensions are:

- economic dimension;
- environmental dimension;
- human dimension;
- fight against new challenges and threats;
- and military-political dimension.

In view of the diverse profile of the member states, and realities typical to Asia, it was decided to begin with the realization of Confidence Building Measures in the fight against new challenges and threats and economic, environmental and human dimensions. Realization of Confidence Building Measures in these areas would create sufficient goodwill and strengthen mutual relations among the member states and would eventually be the stepping stone for realization of Confidence Building Measures in military-political dimension.

The process of implementation of Confidence Building Measures within CICA framework has already commenced. Twelve Member States have volunteered to act as coordinating or co-coordinating countries for implementing specific projects of Confidence Building Measures in the areas of human dimensions; new challenges and threats (terrorism, border control management, human trafficking and trans-national crime); 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 (TABLE 1). Concept papers and/or action plans in human dimensions, new challenges and threats and combating illicit drugs have been adopted and concept papers in other areas are under consideration.

Thirteen specific areas under the five broad dimensions discussed during the presentation:

S. No	<i>Specific CBM</i>	<i>Coordinator</i>	<i>Co-coordinator</i>
1	Development of secure and effective systems of transportation corridors	Azerbaijan	India
2	Combating illicit drugs	Iran	Afghanistan
3	Human dimension	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan
4	Information Technology	Republic of Korea	Bangladesh
5	Energy security	Republic of Korea	India
6	Development of Small and Medium Enterprises	Russia	Thailand Kazakhstan Turkey
7	Tourism	Tajikistan	
8	New challenges and threats	Turkey	Afghanistan
9	Environment	Mongolia	Bangladesh China
10	Military-Political Dimension	Kazakhstan	Turkey
11	Agriculture	China	
12	Finance	China	
13	Sustainable Development	Thailand	

Table 1

The sub-dimensions listed during the presentation by CICA delegation for the Interactive session is as below:

1. Economic Dimension

- Business Forums
- Business Council
- Development of small and medium enterprises – CICA Business Forum and CICA Business Council
- Transportation corridors
- Information Technology
- Energy Security
- Finance
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Sustainable Development
- Seminars, workshops and training programs in all these areas

2. Environmental Dimension

- Combating desertification in Asia
- Dialogue on ecological and environmental cooperation

3. Human Dimension

- Dialogue among civilisations
- Inter-cultural interaction
- Publication of stories, folklore and poetry
- Publication of tourist guide and recipe book
- Youth Camps
- Youth Council

4. Military-Political Dimension

- Visits to military establishments by invitation
- Participation by military personnel in national holidays, cultural and sport events
- Information exchange on CV's of top military personnel
- Exchange of information on accession/ratification of multilateral instruments on arms control and disarmament and outer space
- Seminars/workshops for defence personnel

5. New Threats and Challenges

- Illicit Drugs Production and trafficking
- Other new threats and challenges, including terrorism, trans-national crime, human trafficking, etc.

6. Activities under new threats and challenges

- Database of contact persons dealing with illicit drugs
- Database of contact persons dealing with police related issues
- Database of contact persons dealing with border management
- Meetings of Chiefs of Police
- Seminars/workshops/training programmes on different aspects including illicit drugs, counter-terrorism, border management, refugee flows, etc.
- CICA Plan of Action for implementation of UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

7. Non-Governmental Forum and Think Tank Forum

- Initiatives of Chinese Chairmanship for track two consultations on issues of security
- CICA Non-Governmental Forum organised by Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs
- CICA Think Tank Forum organised by Shanghai Institute for International Studies

8. International Relations

- Received observer status at UNGA in 2007

- Institutional level relationships including observer status and memoranda of understanding with ECO, EurAsEc, Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, SCO, UNODC, SCO RATS, TURKPA, League of Arab States and OSCE
- Contacts with ASEAN, ACD, CSTO, OIC and Turkic Council

Further it was mentioned that external relations of CICA are governed by Guidelines for CICA's External Relations. CICA seeks to establish contacts and links with United Nations and regional and international organizations in support of its efforts to enhance peace, security and economic development in Asia. CICA was conferred observer status by the United Nations General Assembly at its 62nd session in 2007. In pursuance of its efforts to establish links with other organizations, CICA has signed Memoranda of Understanding with Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Assembly of People of Kazakhstan (APK) and Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

Salient Features of Guiding Principles were discussed in the CICA presentation during the Interactive session:

- Sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty
- Refraining from the threat or use of force
- Respecting territorial integrity of the States
- Peaceful settlement of disputes
- Non-interference in internal affairs of States
- Disarmament and arms control
- Economic, social and cultural cooperation
- Human rights and fundamental freedoms

Ambassador Gong Jianwei along with CICA team was delighted by the fruitful interactive session, extended his willingness to work in collaboration with Center for Global & Strategic Studies to learn about the perspective of Pakistan in terms of CBMs. He further mentioned the way forward for CICA:

- Increased political dialogue in the region
- Further implementation of confidence building measures to achieve objectives of CICA
- Promoting relations between CICA and other international organisations

- Continuation of ongoing efforts to promote peace, stability and security in Asia
- Bringing all countries of Asia into CICA family
- Proposal to establish OSDA as successor body of CICA
- Concept of incoming Chairmanship

Ambassador Gong also stated that The Republic of Tajikistan is the next assigned Chairmanship, adding to this he said that CICA hopes to welcome and support Tajikistan's assumption of the Chairmanship of CICA and are confident that Tajikistan, in close cooperation with other Member States and the observers, will pursue efforts to raise CICA cooperation and development to a higher level.

Interactive Question and Answer Session

The session further incorporated a question and answer session:

Question #1

Barrister Babur Suhail –Vice President CGSS:

What about peace settlement? Is there a structure or recipe which recognizes peace settlement? Does CICA have a successful model to tackle disputes that may surface?



Answer: The idea of CICA is to find common grounds on which all countries can work together to have a conflict resolution forum.

Question #2

Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal –Former Federal Secretary of Information and Currently Senior Advisory Member CGSS:

One objective of CICA is to uphold peace, security and stability in Asia. When no effort is made to dispute resolution, how can you think of peace and stability in Asia? Unless you help in resolution of disputes of member states, only then peace, stability and security can be ensured. When there is no mechanism as such how can you assure all this?

Answer: It is not possible to achieve all the objectives. CICA has walked in economic cooperation. Yes, it is CICA's objective but this purpose is only solved if there is cooperation on other issues such as economic cooperation, humanitarian issues, only then it becomes an atmosphere of more confidence. Socio economic dimensions must be taken into considerations. So, it is step by step on a slow endless process. Objective is not lost, but first creating an environment of confidence and trust is important which will lead to the further cooperation.

It is a very utopian idea at this point but we can hope and look forward that.

Question/Comment #3

Mr. Irshad Ullah khan –Chairman and Managing Director of MEFT Pakistan Ltd:

I think one of the most important aspects of interest and Confidence Building Measures is through trade. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. I would like to mention that Pakistan is the one of richest countries of the world in minerals. I am the largest gemstone-mine owner in Pakistan of which the Australian government has made a complete report. I think it's important that the ambassadors present here should take notice of this report and perhaps you can promote this trade and business, which will bring in economic priorities to your country and to Pakistan.

Thank you.

Question/Comment #4

His Excellency Furqat A. Sidiqov –The Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Pakistan:



Assalamu-alaikum, I'm the Ambassador of Uzbekistan, I would like to congratulate Ambassador of Kazakhstan for inviting us to this excellent conference. We all know that the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev has goals to bring stability in the region and I think idea of CICA provides an excellent opportunity for this. Uzbekistan support of this. And once again would like to thank ambassador of Kazakhstan for inviting us to this very informative session.

Question/Comment #5

His Excellency SherAli Jononov –The Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan to Pakistan:

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, Ambassador Gong, welcome to Islamabad. Thank you for your presentation. We are here today in the conference to get information about CICA. Its legal basis, its activities, structure, objectives.

It is the first seminar which is organized by CGSS with Ambassador of Kazakhstan to promote amongst the think tanks of Pakistan about what is exactly is CICA. It covers area from Asia to Middle East to far East. Of course, every organisation has its own objectives, aims, activities, and today we heard some comments but the idea was just to give information about CICA's activities. Also, I would like to thank CGSS for the excellent conference today, for bringing new ideas to Pakistan,

hope we can all work on this. We have to look at this positively, how we can join hands in CICA and move on further.

Question #6

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) –President CGSS:

I also have questions, First of all I must appreciate the very good work that CICA is doing and like our members mentioned that it's the first time most of us are hearing about it, which is why there were so many questions and I must thank the Ambassador of Kazakhstan for organizing this event and I thank Ambassador Gong for bringing his team here to introduce us to this forum. My question is related to drugs, a lot of mention has been made about efforts of CICA to curb menace of illicit trafficking. Keeping in mind my experience I have led a team of Anti-Narcotics Force Pakistan, I personally never interacted with CICA and I think this is very good forum. We must meet more often as far as drug trafficking is concerned. Head of organisations of all regional countries must meet and information must be shared. I just wanted to be clarified what specifically is being done in this particular domain.

Answer: One thing is that we have data base on contact persons in member states on various issues, besides that what is done is training. Training programs are carried out for anti-drug enforcement officers of the relevant agencies and we discussed protection against drugs and then for how law enforcement agencies should handle such things followed by phases of rehabilitation. Training programs are arranged from 4 days to 2 weeks each and I believe that representatives of drug fighting agencies of Pakistan have also participated in 3 of these programs, as for now these that's been done.

And Iran is coordinating country for illicit drugs issue. Meeting of heads anti-narcotics agencies of all member states took place, where the heads brainstorm and will further coordinate with Iran on the issue.

Question #7

Barrister Babur Suhail–Vice President CGSS:

Excellencies, this is an excellent initiative and we are learning a lot from this forum. Like it was rightly pointed out, it's the first time we are getting an understanding or mandate of this CICA. So, let us talk about commonalities on which we can work on and CGSS can be of assistance to CICA for attainment of its objectives, for instance, environmental issues are global issues. Let us talk human trafficking and like rightly pointed out drugs, environment perspective we can also work together on. Is there any mechanism involved for this? CICA is apparently not so that active or we don't know about it.

Answer: In regards to environment, there is so many agencies working on it but as mentioned in the presentation, focus is on desertification. Workshops are given on how to prevent desertification in Asia, so focus has been on that. And about general environmental issues, many agencies are working on it. This discussion did get started in CICA but some of the member states felt that CICA might be duplicating the work global bodies are working on. All member states are invited to these workshops. We are looking at commonalities, what is going on and to extend.

Barrister Babur Suhail–Vice President CGSS:

Youth Council is formulated or in process?

Answer: It was formulated in 2014 and Pakistan has its members in the council. Annual conferences are held for this. Last was in Azerbaijan, where there was representations of youth activities and discussion on what steps to take to promote further youth activities. Resolutions are also passed. So, this is one of those commonalities which we can work on.

Question/Comment #8

Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Taimur Akram, (Retd) – Executive Director CGSS:

Since the Executive Director and team members of CICA are here for first time in Islamabad, I would like to make a suggestion. In Pakistan people do not know about CICA, so, CICA should start some sort of visible activity in Pakistan in terms of youth parliament or in terms of the developing measures to address humanitarian issues. As of now we see that Pakistan should be an active

member, CICA should start some sort of activity like holding of seminars etc. to create awareness about the forum in Pakistan.

Question/Comment #9

Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Gondal—Former Federal Secretary of Information and Presently Senior Advisory Member CGSS:

CGSS is willing to do all these things including connecting people, arranging seminars etc. and CICA is also working with all these members as well. As you mentioned in the presentation that councils are formed for example for environment issues and the youth is activated. We can be of assistance in this regard to promote activities of CICA.

Question/Comment #10

Ambassador Amjad M. Abbasi – Member Advisory Board CGSS:

In 20 to 25 years CICA has not made the impact it should have and its very important mandate. I have made some notes that can be considered. I have been a part of foreign services and the only thing here I want to ask is there any mandatory contribution by the member states?

Answer: No, it is on voluntary basis.

Ambassador Amjad M. Abbasi – Member Advisory Board CGSS:

It should have a mandatory contribution from all members, it will bring more interest and ownership to the forum. Thank you it was a very useful session.

Closing Remarks

His Excellency Mr. Barlybay Sadykov –Ambassador of Republic Of Kazakhstan to Pakistan

His Excellency Mr. Barlybay Sadykov –Ambassador of Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan in his concluding remarks, said:

Thank you all for the participation. I am very highly appreciative of your interests and such interesting questions which you raised shows that this type of platform or organisation in future has great potential to be in great demand. First of all, I would like to once again clarify that roles and tasks of this structure are not designed for conflict resolution but rather for conflict prevention, building confidence and trust amongst nation and to avoid conflict in the future. That is why so many different areas encompass in plan of action. You saw so many different types of activates and those countries which are really interested in confidence building measures they activity participate in CICA. There are now 26 countries not only India and Pakistan but countries such as Israel, Iran, Arab countries where the Middle East issue is still pending its solution. There are a lot of conflicts in the area which is under CICA but it is not goal of CICA to solve these issues, there are other platforms from UN Security Council, UN General Assembly, SCO and more who can reach Pakistan and India. Conflict between parties who want to discuss does not get raised by members and should be solved on bilateral basis.

The concept of CICA is very different and very concept of security is built on the basis of trust. As I mentioned in my introduction our president back in 1992, when we got independence and when situation was very difficult with many conflicts in region, he gave up our nuclear arsenal and signed this type of protocol in May 1992 and had the vision to ensure our security. Whether to build up our military arsenals or to play and belief in good view of neighbors and our friends. We build peaceful and powerful country in the region on basis of trust to each other, which we cherish very much, our cooperation between CARs.

Early this year residents of all Central Asian Republics met in Astana and confirmed that they will work together to ensure that CARs is in the zone of peace and security. Trade and economy is one of the important parts and as my president held a conference last on initiative of OBOR, if we actually implement goals and objectives of CICA this will build trust amongst nations, OBOR will be fully implemented if there is confidence between nations and it is in interest of all nations, thus, if we are interested to economically develop ourselves, our countries, our region Asia, if we want economic prosperity we have to overcome our differences. I hope that Pakistan will reanalyze and study the document and structure of CICA because we strongly believe that this forum has a lot to offer to countries.

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd) –President CGSS

Major General Syed Khalid Amir Jaffery, HI (M), (Retd), concluded the Interactive Roundtable session. In his concluding remarks, he said:

Excellency, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Ambassador Gong, we are very grateful to you for briefing us on scope and mandate of CICA. I think this is an excellent organisation and must be utilized by all countries which are members. Such an organistaion which is going to help with confidence building whether they are member of CICA or of any other organisation must be participated in. We must try our level best to develop confidence building measures to resolve all the disputes and as we said without dispute resolution there can be no economic development, no economic prosperity. Talking about BRI and CARs is extremely important, like China others should also participate in the BRI and I am very sure that CICA will help in developing peace and stability in region with efforts of all 26 countries concerned. Once again Excellency, thank you very much for the educating us on this forum.

Ambassador Gong Jianwei – Executive Director CICA Secretariat

Thank you very much CGSS President, H.E Mr. Sadykov and excellencies. For me it is truly the first time to come to Pakistan. I think today's discussion is very interesting for me, very productive and comprehensive. I see interest from Pakistan's side regarding CICA's development. The opinions you shared with us can be very important and we will study all aspects of your questions and remarks. If you want to see us in Astana we will welcome you, Astana is a beautiful capital. Thank you very much.

Suggested Way Forward

CICA is a very potent and extraordinary platform for international/regional integration however following is suggested:

1. The world has turned Asia into many battle grounds and a testing area for various initiatives, military, political or scientific. So it need to be analysed whether it is only Asia who is not realizing how it has been savaged and whether it should be allowed to continue this way.
2. In our opinion the Asian Region will have to stand up together and play the role which they have played in the history. So they should take it up persuasively. It has to once again be turned into a citadel of scientific, cultural, purity, medicine and social developments.
3. Asia has the best man power and all natural resources, if used wisely, it can shape the area into Europe of tomorrow and even better CICA has to bring back Asia as the center of gravity.
4. Yearly financial contribution needs to be worked out on the basis of GDP of the member states and be made mandatory.
7. Multilateral/bilateral issues of Asian member states pending before the UN General Assembly may be brought back to CICA at sorted out at this forum. This will bring credibility to the organization and the place/status it deserves.

It is time to recognise that CICA is an important platform for exploring and enhancing confidence building measures through continuous dialogue and interaction, comprehensive exchange of view and close cooperation. In more than twenty years since its establishment, the CICA process has played an important role and will continue to play equally important role in promoting interaction among Member States, enhancing dialogue among civilizations, establishing and implementing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) and strengthening the CICA process, thus making contribution to peace, security, stability and sustainable development in Asia.

The participants of the Interactive Roundtable Session on “Current Activities and Goals of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)” expressed deep appreciation for the significant contribution made by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the establishment, development and growth of CICA as the founding Chairman. This session will help recognize opportunities for building trust and finding common opportunities with regards to Pakistan and regional connectivity. The limitations discussed in the session will be worked upon in accordance with the suggestive measures highlighted.

The CGSS Team

Written by: Ms. Khadeja M. Khan

Graphics Editor: Ms. Madiha Ghaffar

Supervised by: Ms. Syeda Dhanak Fatima Hashmi