

Statement by H.E. Dr. Reza Najafi

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran

At the Informal Meeting of the CICA Ministerial Council

September 21st, New York

In the Name of God, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Mr. Chairman,

Honorable Ministers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to appreciate the Republic of Kazakhstan as the Chairman of CICA for holding this meeting. I would also like to thank Mr. Kairat Sarybay the Secretary General and his distinguished colleagues for preparing the documents of the meeting.

The challenges of today's world necessitate the presence of the Asian continent as a source of power and wealth production in the evolving world order. In this context, it seems necessary to strengthen CICA by upgrading it to a regional organization. CICA should encourage multilateralism by creating inclusive dialogues and cooperation among member countries.

We believe that CICA can play a pivotal role in strengthening stability and security in Asia. There is no doubt that the approval of documents such as the road map for transforming CICA into an organization in the present meeting may help us all in enhancing the role and position of CICA in the field of regional and global cooperation in political, economic, cultural, social and security dimensions.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to emphasize the importance of accepting the importance of multilateralism and rejecting unilateralism as the main elements and preconditions for solving global challenges.

Fortunately, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always played an active and constructive role in these meetings. Our policy is based on supporting security, peace, and stability in Asia through dialogue and trust building as

the foundations of CICA. In this context, we strongly support the development and evolution of CICA as a full-fledged organization.

Our fundamental and long-term policy is based on balanced relations, mutual understanding of common interests, cooperation and dialogue, mutual action, and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. We extend the hand of brotherhood and friendship towards our neighbors and all the benign countries of the world.

Dear colleagues,

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that the only way to overcome the challenges that threaten the security of our nations is to cooperate to find common solutions.

Mr. Chair, in conclusion, I sincerely express my own and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran's satisfaction regarding the approval of a number of basic documents in the matter of improving the status of CICA.

Thank You