

Statement by H.E. Suhail Al Mazrouei
UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure
at the Sixth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence
Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

13 October 2022

Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan

Your Excellency Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Your Excellencies, Honorable Members of the delegation,

Please allow me to begin by conveying to Your Excellencies the sincere greetings of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and their wishes for Your Excellency and your people for further development and prosperity. We are highly appreciative of the Government of Kazakhstan for its warm hospitality and reception.

In addition, we would like to applaud the efforts of Kazakhstan as the chair of CICA for the 2020-2022 period and for organizing this summit. I would also like to commend the collective efforts of all member states that have contributed to the development of the CICA process, furthering our objective of promoting peace, security, and cooperation in Asia.

We would also like to welcome the admission of Kuwait as a member, which will be a valuable addition in achieving CICA objectives.

I would also like to reiterate the UAE's commitment to CICA and express our confidence in its smooth transition into a full-fledged international organization. CICA is founded on solid grounds of constructive cooperation and mutual understanding between member states, fueled by confidence building measures aimed at promoting regional cooperation, stability, security, and development.

Excellencies,

As the world is undergoing a transition, cooperation, connectivity and coexistence must be the defining characteristics of the emerging economic order. Diplomacy is now, more than ever, being used as a powerful tool for countries to mend ties and build bridges around the world.

In this regard, I wish to refer to the UAE's foreign policy, particularly that which was established under the UAE's visionary founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who championed a foreign policy characterized by wisdom, moderation, justice, dialogue, and understanding. His legacy was advanced by the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al Nahyan and President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Moreover, the UAE's foreign policy prioritizes adherence to international law and principles such as respect for countries' sovereignty, dialogue, and resolving disputes by peaceful means.

Excellencies,

We are aware of the magnitude of challenges before us today and increasing polarization worldwide, but we must restore confidence in the international system and in the legitimacy of its institutions by enhancing its capacity to

address the existential challenges of the twenty-first century. The UAE firmly believes that the states present in this room have the ability to do so if we remain determined and harness our potential to chart a better future for our peoples.

The UAE will continue to champion peace and stability in our region and the wider world while advocating for wisdom and cooperation for the good of mankind. We will continue our steadfast approach in strengthening bridges of partnership, dialogue, and balanced relations based on trust, credibility, and mutual respect with other countries to achieve stability and prosperity for all.

The UAE is seeking a more active role in global issues, including climate change and health, advanced technology, and a greater focus on economic prosperity, not just for itself, but also for the entire region. With regards to regional crises, the UAE's main priorities remain the de-escalation of tensions and avoiding the emergence of vacuums in the region. Here I would like to emphasize that diplomacy and dialogue are the tools to build confidence and resolve issues.

The UAE is committed to resolving international disputes through dialogue and peaceful means, contributing to the promotion of international peace and security, exerting extensive efforts to contain crises, providing relief and assistance in areas of conflict, and promoting bilateral, regional and international cooperation.

Excellencies,

The UAE believes that climate action should be prioritized. It is one of the most difficult challenges facing the world today.

In fact, the UAE has a proven track record of climate innovation to drive sustainable economic growth and has leveraged its natural and technological advantages as an energy hub to create an ecosystem for climate solutions.

The UAE is leading efforts to combat climate change while ensuring energy security, and it is on its way to achieving climate neutrality by 2050 with the best available technologies at the lowest cost, using a combination of natural gas, nuclear energy, and solar energy. The UAE plans to invest USD 163 billion in clean and renewable energy sources by 2050.

In January each year, the UAE hosts Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the world's largest annual sustainability event. We are also preparing to host the 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) in 2023 in Abu Dhabi with a focus on the economic case for inclusive climate action.

Excellencies,

Enhancing women's full and meaningful participation in peace and security matters is vital for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and recovery. Building on the UAE's longstanding commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, I would like to highlight the launch of the UAE National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the launch of the

Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak Women, Peace and Security Centre in Abu Dhabi.

Presidents, Ministers, Distinguished Guests,

We believe that communication between member countries will strengthen bonds of friendship, support our commitment to climate action, and promote regional and global peace, understanding, and dialogue.

The UAE looks forward to strengthening multilateral engagement and reinforcing fruitful cooperation with its partners around the world.

We are excited for this new chapter of CICA's history with the launch of the negotiations process on its transformation into a full-fledged international organization. Once again, we are confident that this will enable us to further our goals in promoting peace, security, and development in Asia.

Lastly, I extend my sincere gratitude to the Republic of Kazakhstan for its warm welcome and for hosting this summit.

Thank you.