



**CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

**СОВЕЩАНИЕ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ И
МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

**Adopted by the CICA Ministerial Meeting
2004**

Almaty, 22 October

**Declaration
of the Second Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the
Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia**

We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), met today in Almaty to exchange views on current situation at the regional and global levels and to explore possibilities to further cooperation, peace and security in Asia.

The situation on the Asian continent and in the world is rapidly changing. Peace, development and cooperation are the main trends, but threats to peace and security, such as terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and the possibility of their falling in the hands of terrorists, illicit drug trafficking, regional conflicts and disputes, foreign occupation, economic and social problems, particularly poverty, human trafficking, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons continue to exist. These threats and opportunities are global in nature and multilateral efforts by the international community are required to effectively deal with them. The situation in Asia is characterized by the diversity of political and economic systems and unique cultural traditions, and therefore requires due attention to these particularities in formulation of approaches for enhancing security and prosperity of our peoples.

We stress that the main objective of the CICA is to make its own contribution to enhance an atmosphere of peace and security in Asia. In this respect, CICA represents a forum where prospects for our interaction can be discussed and appropriate multilateral approaches for enhancing cooperation can be elaborated in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the Almaty Act.

We reaffirm our commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

We recognize the special role of confidence building measures in enhancing cooperation and further developing an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship in Asia and in creation of favorable conditions for finding solutions to problems in military-political, economic and environmental, humanitarian and cultural spheres.

Recent developments in international relations demonstrate that multilateral approaches based on the widest possible international support are the most effective way to address the challenges of the contemporary world. We therefore reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance and promotion of international peace, security and sustainable development in accordance with its Charter. We emphasize the need for reform of the UN system to make it more responsive to traditional and new challenges and agree to work towards this goal.

We reaffirm that the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the right of the Iraqi people as a whole to control their financial and natural resources, should be respected by the international community. We welcome the statement by the Iraqi Interim Government to establish good relations between Iraq and its neighboring states, based on mutual respect and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as to abide by the existing treaties and arrangements, particularly those relevant to internationally recognized borders, and invite Iraq and its neighboring states to actively cooperate to promote peace and stability in the region as well as by eliminating all terrorist presence on their territories. We support the initiation of the political process in Iraq as outlined in UNSCR 1546. We emphasize that the United Nations should play a central role in this process. We welcome the forthcoming international conference on Iraq to be held in Egypt on 23-25 November, 2004.

We support the process of political and economic reconstruction in Afghanistan and encourage all countries including neighboring states to intensify their efforts to assist the Afghan Government in promoting stability, economic rehabilitation and fighting terrorism and drug production in the country. We also consider it necessary to continue collective efforts to chart a comprehensive strategy of international actions to counter the drug threat

originating from Afghanistan. We welcome the presidential elections in Afghanistan as one of the key elements of the Bonn process and the first most important step towards establishing new state institutions based on democratic principles.

We are concerned with the situation in the Middle East and call upon all parties concerned to resume negotiations to help achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace, security and stability in this region. We welcome initiatives to achieve this objective, in particular the Roadmap Plan as endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 1515 and President Bush's Vision.

We support the establishment of peace and stability in the South Caucasus, which would serve the interests of all states concerned and enhance the stability of all Eurasian region, through the peaceful settlement of conflicts on the basis of the norms and principles of international law, and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

We support the process of the Six-Party Talks aimed at denuclearization and establishment of a nuclear weapons free zone in the Korean Peninsula. We stand for an early achievement of mutually acceptable agreements which would promote peace, security and cooperation in the Korean Peninsula and the Northeast Asia as a whole.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism and agree to enhance our efforts at bilateral and multilateral levels in fighting these common threats which undermine the very foundations of international peace and security. The fight against these threats should be global, comprehensive and sustained, and not selective or discriminatory and should avoid applying double standards.

We unequivocally support the UN Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2004/31 condemning the recent terrorist attacks in the Russian Federation.

We reaffirm that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace and security, and call upon all states to fulfill their respective obligations in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, it is vital to prevent terrorist and criminal groups from attempts to acquire nuclear, chemical, biological and

radiological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials and multilateral efforts to reduce this threat should be greatly encouraged.

We emphasize that international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation should not affect the rights of states to access and use nuclear technology and materials for peaceful purposes in accordance with their respective obligations emanating from relevant IAEA safeguards agreements.

We recognize that economic and social progress is a vital component of security and stability in Asia. Therefore we stress the importance of the development of regional and sub-regional dialogue and strengthening multilateral cooperative approaches as well as measures as appropriate on promoting sustainable development, economic cooperation, the well-being of our peoples and respect for human rights.

We support various multilateral and individual initiatives on development of dialogue among civilizations which is one of the principal instruments in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and intolerance and promoting peaceful co-existence among adherents of different religions or cultures.

Today we adopted decisions reflecting the results of the work done by the Member States in order to accomplish tasks given by the Heads of State and/or Government at the 2002 CICA Summit and to continue our work for the preparations of the next CICA Summit.

Almaty, 22 October 2004