

The Fifth Meeting of the Youth Council of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

**14-15 July 2022, Nur-Sultan
hybrid-format**

REPORT

The Fifth Meeting of the CICA Youth Council was held on 14-15 July 2022 in Nur-Sultan in a hybrid format within the framework of the Chairmanship of the Republic of Kazakhstan in CICA in 2020-2022. The Meeting was attended by Vice-Minister of Information and Social Development Alexander Danilov, Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat Kairat Sarybay, Vice-President of the Nazarbayev University Khadisha Dairova, representatives of state bodies and youth organizations of CICA Member States.

For reference: The idea of convening CICA was first voiced by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly on 5 October 1992. The driving force behind this initiative was the desire to create an effective and acceptable structure for ensuring peace and security in Asia.

PLENARY SESSION

Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat Kairat Sarybay read out the welcome address of President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to the participants of the CICA Youth Council:

- Dear heads of delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am glad to welcome you at the Fifth Meeting of the CICA Youth Council.

This Meeting is especially significant because it takes place in the year of the 30th anniversary since the inception of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia.

Over this time, CICA has become a reputable dialogue platform that promotes peace and cooperation on the largest continent of the planet.

In the conditions of global turbulence, the importance of the Conference as an effective institution of multilateral diplomacy, strengthening cooperation and security in the region and the world, has increased multiple times.

The CICA Youth Council plays an important role in expanding partnership and humanitarian ties among the Member States of the forum.

The Council coordinates the activities of youth organizations of our countries in the social, environmental and cultural areas, making a significant contribution to unlocking the potential of the younger generation.

The agenda of today's Meeting includes such important topics as countering the radicalization of society, preventing suicide and drug addiction.

This shows the desire and willingness of the youth of the CICA Member States to make a tangible contribution to building a more harmonious world.

I am sure that the Meeting of the CICA Youth Council will give a powerful creative impetus to close cooperation in the vast Asian space, while an open and trusting dialogue will help to find new approaches and solutions to meet modern challenges.

I thank everyone for the active support of the forum.

I wish you a fruitful exchange of experience and productive discussions.

Welcoming remarks by Executive Director of the CICA Secretariat Kairat Sarybay:

- Distinguished participants of the CICA Youth Council Meeting,

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) I am pleased to welcome all participants of the Fifth Meeting of the CICA Youth Council. This year's Meeting of the Youth Council takes place in the CICA 30th anniversary year.

As you know, CICA has gone through a remarkable evolution and currently serves as a relevant platform for interaction among Asian states on a wide range of issues.

A special role in the comprehensive agenda of CICA is assigned to the development of youth cooperation of the Member States within the framework of the human dimension.

It should be noted that the CICA Youth Council was established in 2014 at the initiative of the Republic of Kazakhstan, based on the understanding that youth cooperation is an important factor in ensuring sustainable and comprehensive development of the CICA Member States in socio-economic and humanitarian fields. Within the framework of youth cooperation, the Member States identified eight priority areas of interaction that are designed to improve the quality of life of young people, namely, developing regional cooperation among national youth organizations, encouraging youth participation in the implementation of youth policy; promoting the development of civic culture and gender equality; improving cooperation in the interests of youth; developing projects on the promotion of democratic norms of behaviour, cultural exchange, sports and education.

As time shows, in such a short period of time, the CICA Youth Council has become a unique platform for accumulating best ideas of the youth, as well as exchanging experience on youth policy issues among youth associations of CICA Member States.

The importance of the youth agenda was also underlined in the Declaration of the Fifth CICA Summit in 2019, where the Member States agreed to explore the possibilities of holding relevant events for universities and the youth on the platform of the CICA Youth Council in order to expand the scope of people-to-people contacts at various levels.

The topics of today's panel sessions include educational exchange programmes for students, countering radicalization and preventing destructive behaviour among young people, issues of youth development at the national and regional levels. This is not a complete list of issues that will be considered today by the delegates of the CICA Youth Council.

Moreover, it should be noted that by the Fifth Meeting of the Youth Council our forum accumulated extensive knowledge and experience on the development of youth cooperation among the CICA Member States.

The Youth Council has held four meetings: in 2015 in China, in 2016 in Kyrgyzstan, in 2018 in Azerbaijan, and in 2021 in Kazakhstan in an online format. In 2021, Uzbekistan, as coordinator in the human dimension and co-chair of the CICA Youth Council, held an international conference on the role of youth in countering radicalism, extremism and terrorism, providing a platform for productive exchange of views on protecting the youth from the influence of destructive factors.

I would especially like to note that CICA fruitfully cooperates with regional organizations on the development of the youth agenda. We gratefully welcome the willingness of TurkPA, the observer organization of CICA, to share with us today the experience of the Parliamentary Group of Young Parliamentarians and its contribution to the development of youth policy in the Turkic-speaking states.

Watching the bright and ambitious young delegates in the hall, the wise words of the great Kazakh poet and educator Akhmet Baitursynov come to mind, "Youth is the nation's hope for a better future." (Жастар халықтың жақсы болашағының үміті)

The agenda of today's meeting will certainly provide an opportunity to achieve the overarching goal of CICA - promoting a peaceful and prosperous future in Asia.

In conclusion, I would like to wish fruitful work and constructive recommendations to the Fifth Meeting of the CICA Youth Council.

Thank you for your attention.

Welcoming remarks of Chairman of the Meeting of the CICA Youth Council and Vice-Minister of Information and Public Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan Alexander Danilov:

- I'm very thankful to the Head of State for the heartfelt words.

Very thankful to Kairat Sarybay for the responsible mission to read out the welcoming address of the Head of State.

I am glad to welcome all of you at the Meeting of the Youth Council of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), consolidating under its wing the leading youth organizations, associations and movements of the 27 CICA Member States!

It is necessary to mention the significant fact that it was at the initiative of Kazakhstan that the foundations of the effective forum of multilateral diplomacy were laid 30 years ago. Therefore, CICA has a significant historical role for our country.

We are grateful to all countries for supporting this initiative and that you have been with us all these 30 years and contributed to the development of the organization.

The CICA Youth Council is a key structural institution that contributes to the main goal of the organization to strengthen trust, peace and security in Asia.

Today, we can say with confidence that the CICA Youth Council has become an effective platform for regional cooperation between national youth organizations of the Member States.

In general, various youth cooperation events are regularly held within the framework of CICA.

This year we held an international forum of trilateral cooperation between Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan, at which a productive exchange of views took place on the issues of protecting young people from the influence of destructive forces.

In addition, the Kazakh delegation consisting of the best young people recently visited the Central Asian Youth Forum and the Forum of Young Leaders of Turkic-speaking Countries, organized by the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Today, at the Fifth Meeting of the CICA Youth Council, we will continue our valuable dialogue on effective cooperation between national youth organizations of the CICA Member States, encouraging young people to participate in the implementation of youth policies, developing

recommendations and proposals to improving cooperation in the interests of young people in the CICA area.

Twenty percent of the population of Kazakhstan are young people aged 14 to 29 years. If we add children and teenagers to these statistics, we will find out that half of the Kazakh population are young people.

In this regard, the state systematically takes measures to promote and support young people who have become leaders and have achieved success in various spheres of our life. This is a very important job in a new era when high intelligence is a priority, and the intellectual potential of the nation comes to the fore.

Today, our country is successfully implementing state projects to support and encourage the youth in various fields: for example, the international educational scholarship “Bolashak”, the Presidential Youth Talent Pool, youth employment programmes and many other projects. The introduction of a mandatory 30% quota for women and young people under the age of 29 in the electoral party lists of political parties deserves special attention.

Kazakhstan has been awarding the State Youth Prize “Daryn” for 30 years. In addition, on behalf of the Head of State, a grant “Generation of Independence” was established last year for our talented youth.

I am ready to assure you that the state will continue to create conditions for the successful self-fulfilment of young people and bringing up new leaders who defend the interests of their country, their people.

Economists, political scientists and emerging market experts have been noting the advent of the Asian Era for decades. Asia is home to more than half of the world's population. According to the UN, 21 of the 30 largest cities in the world are located in Asia. And it is the youth who are destined to be the driving force of the continent, since they are more often ready to use innovative technologies, apply the acquired skills and competencies to jointly search for answers and solutions to global challenges.

At the same time, of all population groups, young people are the most vulnerable to various kinds of problems, especially of a radical nature.

Therefore, I am very impressed with the stated agenda of today's Meeting. It focuses on topical issues of developing comprehensive cooperation among the youth of the CICA Member States, and especially on the experience and role of our countries in countering the radicalization of youth and preventing such negative phenomena as suicide, drug addiction among young people.

Dear participants of the Meeting,

Kazakhstan is always ready to provide the necessary assistance to the CICA Youth Council in its important activities to strengthen the dialogue among the youth of our countries.

The modern youth of CICA is the future of Asia, ambitious and progressive young men and women who are ready, through dialogue and cooperation, to make a feasible contribution to the cause of ensuring common indivisible security in Asia.

I wish fruitful work to the Council, and to its members – strengthening ties among the youth organizations, associations and movements they represent.

During the plenary session, the welcoming remarks were delivered by **Acting Chairman of the World Youth Association of Uzbekistan Istamjon Khamroev**, who noted the development of youth policy in Uzbekistan and the work of the World Youth Association of Uzbekistan.

Istamjon Khamroev spoke about the new organizations and programmes being created for effective implementation of the youth policy, as well as about the completely new systems of centralized work with the problems and initiatives of the younger generation – “Youth Notebook” and “Youth Programmes”, presented the electronic system “Youth Notebook”, which allows to fix the problems of the youth on an individual basis, in 2021 alone, it was possible to solve the problem of more than 430 thousand young men and women included in this system.

The speaker presented the system to reimburse the costs of passing 18 international exams for young people, who scored 75% of the maximum score, dwelt upon the programme called “Million Programmers (coders)”, informed about mobilization of young people during the pandemic, issues of safe migration, a scholarship programme to cover part of contracts, a law laboratory.

In addition, **Valeria Chernogorodova, Head of the International Activities Department of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs of the Russian Federation**, delivered a welcoming speech.

Valeria Chernogorodova noted that CICA brought together a lot of countries with different culture, religion, languages, but common understanding that the youth policy was a very topical issue, stressed that last year the CICA Secretariat supported the international prize “We Are Together”, which was annually awarded in the Russian Federation to volunteers and volunteer organizations around the world for their great contribution to solving humanitarian problems. In past years, the problem was the Covid-19

pandemic, she expressed the hope that after the event there would be even more programmes and projects for further interaction.

During the plenary session and panel discussions, participants focused on such relevant topics as youth and student exchange programmes, countering youth radicalization, measures to prevent suicide, drug addiction among young people.

Following the meeting, the participants agreed to intensify the dialogue and partnership of CICA with youth organizations, as well as to support the participation of youth communities in solving urgent problems related to radicalism, high suicide rates and drug addiction among young people.

In general, the participating delegates unanimously agreed that the issues discussed are of mutual interest for the promotion of youth policy in the CICA countries.

PANEL SESSIONS

Session 1. Youth and student exchange programmes.

Member of the CICA Youth Council, Head of the International Activities Department at the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs of Russia **Valeria Chernogorodova** informed about international youth projects and programmes in Russia, noted bilateral exchange programmes, youth platforms within the framework of major international events, such as the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum and the Eastern Economic Forum, spoke about the format of project offices, when each region was assigned to work with international partners, dwelt upon the project “We Are Together”, within the framework of which a delegation from Russia was sent to various countries to exchange experience, similarly, Russia received delegates from other countries, stressed the effectiveness of the Eurasia Global forum.

Project Coordinator of the Academy of Youth Diplomacy **Adelya Gafarova** briefed on the planned events within the framework of “Kazan – OIC Youth Capital 2022” as part of the presentation of the youth exchange programmes of the Russian Federation.

Acting Chairman of the World Youth Association of Uzbekistan **Istamjon Khamroev** dwelt on current projects for the exchange and transfer of students, spoke about the functioning Youth Union of Uzbekistan, and more than thirty non-governmental organizations under the Union. One of which was the World Youth Association of Uzbekistan. The speaker stressed that the main purpose of the creation of the World Youth Association of Uzbekistan was to establish permanent contacts with young people studying and working abroad, to protect

and support their rights and interests. The Association worked in three key areas: education abroad, labour migration issues and cooperation with Uzbek diasporas. The speaker cited successful projects such as “Musofir” to support compatriots abroad, “Safe Migration” to improve the knowledge and skills of young people of Uzbekistan about their rights, laws and rules of crossing the state border and working (studying) abroad, “Legal Laboratory” to provide legal advice to those in need.

Deputy Director of the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan **Banu Nurbekova** noted that each nationality had its own way of development, but at the same time they learn from each other. “Kazakhstan has developed an internationalization strategy in this area, which provides for many activities and measures for interaction at the regional level, that is, in Central Asia and in the entire Asia. The first is student exchange, because only young people can make a difference in our region.” She spoke about the opening branches of famous foreign universities in Kazakhstan and Kazakh universities abroad, stressed the development of a Kazakh programme to attract students, as part of which more than 20,000 students from foreign countries studied in Kazakhstan, dwelt on the problem that students lacked knowledge of languages, as well as the difficulty of conducting nostrification abroad.

In his speech, Chairman of JSC “Center for International Programmes” **Anuar Zhangozin** noted that for many Kazakhstanis the international programme “Bolashak” had become a social elevator. “For many Kazakhstanis, the programme has become a real social elevator, because there are no criteria related to the social status of the fellows. Absolutely everyone can participate in it. Now, we see that more than 11 thousand graduates of the Bolashak programme are representatives of absolutely different spheres, social strata, nationalities,” noted the Chairman of the Management Board. In his speech, he also emphasized that the Center focused on training specialists in the field of IT, innovation, engineering, industrial technologies.

Director of the Academy of Political Management of the AMANAT party **Daniyar Mukitanov** spoke about his experience of studying under international programmes and suggested expanding student exchange programmes within the framework of CICA. He informed of the transformation of the AMANAT political party, within the framework of which approaches to the youth relations were modernized.

Session 2. Countering youth radicalization

Deputy Chairman of the Board of the N. Nazarbayev Center for the Development of Interfaith and Intercivilizational Dialogue **Dianna Yessenova** noted that the relevance of the topic raised at the Meeting that day was beyond doubt, it was directly related to the great work that they did together with all participants every day to prevent religious extremism and terrorism. “Recently, we have witnessed the emergence of many dividing lines in the modern globalizing world: regional and confessional, social and cultural, linguistic and ethnic, which have transformed into sources of new conflicts within various states. The situation in the religious sphere is of key importance for the political and public security of the state. The ideologists of extremist groups are trying to promote radical ideas and involve our fellow citizens in their sphere of influence. This is a problem of the absolute majority of countries in the world. It is necessary to involve the resources of civil society more actively in the work to prevent the spread of ideas of religious extremism, especially among young people. We need to take all measures to prevent and suppress any attempts to use religion for destructive purposes. Our efforts should also be aimed at improving comprehensive measures to ensure that all participants of religious relations comply with legislation in the field of religions. Close cooperation with creative groups and the mass media is important in the prevention of religious extremism as part of the intensification of information and educational work to promote secular values, debunking the destructive essence of radical religious movements,” said D.Yessenova.

Expert in new challenges and threats of the CICA Secretariat **Adel Adaileh** spoke about radicalization among young people in the Arab region and how to deal with it.

Head of the Department of Methodological and Analytical Support of Youth Policy of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs **Daniil Kirimov** informed about Russia's policy in the field of countering youth radicalization.

Chairman of the Board of the Autonomous Non-Profit Organization “Quantum Leap” **Alexander Savushkin** briefed on countering radical ideologies in the educational and youth environment.

Joint Secretary (Pakistan) **Marvi Kadir Dakhan** spoke about the prerequisites of radicalization, the main factors of radicalization of the youth in Pakistan, countering radicalization among educated youth of Pakistan, measures taken by the Government of Pakistan to counter youth radicalization.

First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Youth and Sports of the Republic of Tajikistan **Rahimzoda Shabnam Karim** touched upon the issues

of countering the radicalization of youth in Tajikistan and ensuring regional stability.

Session 3. Presentation on achievements and experiences in advocating youth development among the CICA Member States on the topic “Prioritizing youth development in national and regional development agenda”

Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the People's Republic of Bangladesh **Kazi Moshtaque Zahir** presented the methods and policies of youth development in Bangladesh.

Deputy Secretary General of the All-China Youth Federation **Liu Kai** identified priority areas of youth development in the national and regional development agenda.

Head of the General Department of Social Partnerships and Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Sports and Youth of the Islamic Republic of Iran **Kamelnavab Morteza** highlighted the empowerment and capacity building of young people and focused on the related actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Session 4. Discussion of measures to prevent suicide, drug addiction among young people

Head of the International Relations Department of the Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Youth Affairs **Islom Okhunov** highlighted the measures taken by Uzbekistan to bring positive change to the attitude and behaviour of young people, who were affected by their incorrect beliefs and ideas about drugs and violence.

Director of the Future Without Drugs Foundation (Kazakhstan) **Zhandos Aktayev** focused on the development of life skills that help teenagers to increase their ability to interact with others, build positive relationships and cope with negative emotions to help minimize risk factors and maximize protective factors.

“The lack of global role models who popularize a healthy lifestyle can be solved by a targeted information campaign on the part of local opinion leaders. If they are thoroughly trained, they will be able to conduct prevention campaigns for young people in all aspects of their lives. The loss of life orientations leading to a crisis can be solved by competent and accessible work of psychologists. It is necessary to increase the number of psychologists and quality of their work in schools, their accessibility in youth health centers,” said Zhandos Aktayev.

Chairman of the Public Foundation “Pravo” **Olga Ryl** called the creation of psychological assistance services in Kazakhstan an urgent topic, where more volunteers could be trained, who in the future could work with young people who are on the verge of suicidal risks.

Psychiatrist (suicidologist) of the Mental Health Center of Nur-Sultan **Yekaterina Mironova** stressed that the system of prevention of suicidal behaviour among young people had developed, but it was too early to say that it was effective, since there were a number of significant shortcomings. “Among them: weak consistency, insufficient coordination, coherence, staffing, insufficient financial support of specialized programmes for institutions designed to carry out primary and secondary suicide prevention among the population in general and among young people in particular. Despite the fact that a significant scientific layer of developments has been accumulated, there is no unified state programme for the prevention of suicidal behaviour among young people for the education system, healthcare, law enforcement agencies, and social services,” said Yekaterina Mironova.

Session 5. Presentation on the contribution of the Parliamentary Group of Young Parliamentarians to the development of youth policy in the Turkic-speaking states

Executive Secretary of the Group of Young Parliamentarians at TurkPA **Elay Panahli** said that the common regulatory framework was the basis for successful integration processes, and TurkPA, being a multilateral platform for inter-parliamentary cooperation in the Turkic world, made a huge contribution to the development and strengthening of political dialogue between the Turkic states through parliamentary diplomacy, strengthening equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with other countries and international organizations, strengthening socio-economic, political, cultural, humanitarian and legal relations.

Member of the Council of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, Chairman of the republican public association “Zhastary Assembly” (Youth Assembly) **Timur Dzhumurbayev** presented the work of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, the projects of its youth wing, the activities of Uzbek ethno-cultural associations of Kazakhstan.