

**Statement by Mr. Amarsaikhan Sainbuyan**  
**Member of Parliament**  
**Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia**  
**at the Sixth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence**  
**Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

*13 October 2022*  
*Astana, Republic of Kazakhstan*

Mr. Chairman, Your Excellency President Tokayev,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Tokayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Chairman of CICA and his team for successfully hosting the Sixth Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia Summit on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment.

Taking this opportunity, I would also like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the Heads of Member and Observer States, as well as International organizations, and everyone who has tirelessly exerted efforts to promote peace, mutual trust and understanding, and foster mutually beneficial cooperation in Asia in the spirit of the Conference.

I would like to extend my warm felicitations to the Kuwaiti delegation for Kuwait's accession to the family of CICA.

I note with great pleasure that Kazakhstan's initiative to establish the CICA Think Tank Forum (TTF), CICA Council of Eminent Persons (CEP) as well as the renewal catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) during its chairmanship in uneasy times of COVID-19 pandemic from 2020-2022, which was a stepping stone towards fostering more fruitful cooperation among the member states.

Mr. Chairman,

The present summit comes at a challenging time in the global economic and logistical ordeals triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as escalating geopolitical tensions. The importance of this Conference is enhanced as the pressing circumstances urge us to further consolidate cooperation and deepen mutual trust and understanding.

I am confident that the Summit will give an impetus in discussing and seeking ways for countries to identify options to mitigate international crises and conflicts through dialogue and amicable means, implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, maintaining solidarity against global economic crisis, combating climate change, including desertification and disaster risks reduction in a consistent manner.

Today, we are jointly evaluating the 30-year achievements of the confidence building measures. The "Astana Statement on the CICA Transformation" reflecting the visions of CICA towards the next stage of development, which we

are about to release, will open a new chapter in cooperation, elevate it to a new height and further increase the role of interaction on the international arena.

Mr. Chairman,

Mongolia has consistently pursued a peaceful, open and multi-pillared foreign policy. In this context, I believe that Mongolia's initiatives to contribute to the strengthening of international and regional peace and security embody the goal of promoting Asian identity in many aspects. We are eager as before, to further collaborate with you to strengthen peace, security, and stability in the Asian region, as well as to foster mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of economy, environment, and health following the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year also marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mongolia's declaration of its territory a Nuclear Free status. We have consistently carried out a series of policies and actions in favor of ensuring the legalization of this status. As a result, international recognition of Nuclear-free status represents a tangible effort and contribution to the process of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and abolishment.

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual International Conference on Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security initiated by Mongolia, was successfully held in Ulaanbaatar last June where wide range of topics on regional security, energy grid, green development, humanitarian cooperation, and economic recovery after the pandemic have been discussed extensively. In addition, we have also

successfully hosted the Northeast Asia Multilateral Conference on Sustainable Development last September.

As a country that is vulnerable and more prone to climate change, Mongolia prioritizes efforts to mitigate negative effects, combat desertification, and protect fragile ecosystems, thus contributing to global endeavors to preserve and emphasize active cooperation within the international community. Therefore, the President of Mongolia has initiated the "Billion Trees" national movement to plant, grow, and protect billions of saplings. To this end, we reaffirm our willingness to share our experiences and are open for cooperation in this regard.

It is my pleasure to inform that Mongolia has started the preparations to organize the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) in 2026.

Mostly due to global climate change, soil degradation, desertification and drought, pasturelands are getting overburdened and the space for migratory livestock is shrinking day by day in Mongolia. As the nomadic civilization is facing an imminent danger of extinction, Mongolia initiated a UNGA Resolution proclaiming the year of 2026 as the "International year of Rangelands and Pastoralists" adopted by the UN General Assembly this year, which aims to ensure the improvement in pastoral management, utilization and maintenance of the ecosystem intact in addition to providing and contributing to the food supply and security of the world population.

Furthermore, we are pleased to note that the CICA member states have been actively participating in the activities of the international Think-tank for the Land Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs), which is based in Ulaanbaatar. Regional and international support for landlocked developing countries remains critical for export diversification, value addition, infrastructure development, capacity building, and expanding market access opportunities. We are confident that the confidence-building measures will help to further address these issues.

At a time when terrorism and religious extremism are threatening not only national but also regional stability, the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, co-founded by Mongolia some 50 years ago, is voicing out once again to encourage interfaith dialogue and exchange of ideas based on rich cultural and intellectual heritages as well.

Mr. Chairman,

The world is going through turbulent times facing challenges in global energy, food, financial and logistical supply disruptions in addition to the rising commodity prices. To address these challenges, the Government of Mongolia is implementing the six-pronged New Recovery Policy. The policy is focused on the improvement of road, railway, and border crossings capacity, increase of alternative energy sources, intensification of industrialization, as well as urban and rural development, green development, and enhancement of public-private partnership, and productivity. I am confident that CICA will play a constructive role in enabling us to collaboratively and collectively resolve the above-mentioned problems facing the region.

In conclusion, once again, I would like to reiterate my sincere congratulations on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of CICA to everyone and wish you a successful and fruitful outcome of the Summit.

Thank you.