

**Speech by Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Education and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Maliki Osman, Head of Delegation of the Republic of Singapore, at the Sixth Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Member States of CICA, Observer States, Guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Singapore is honoured to participate as a guest at the 6<sup>th</sup> CICA Summit. Let me first express my heartiest congratulations to the Chair for the successful Summit, particularly as CICA celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and also extend my heartiest congratulations to Kuwait on its accession as a Member State of CICA.

We welcome CICA's objective in promoting peace, security, and stability in Asia. Colleagues, we live in a complex and troubling geopolitical environment. The pandemic has demonstrated the need for closer international cooperation, and for us to move beyond differences and strive towards mutually beneficial outcomes.

For a small state like Singapore, multilateralism is not a choice but a necessity. In this regard, we welcome CICA's efforts to promote closer cooperation among countries in Asia based on an adherence to the principles of the UN Charter and international law.

Allow me to end by thanking, again, the Kazakh Chair for inviting Singapore as a guest and also to extend my advance congratulations to Kazakhstan on its National Day on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October.