

CICA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS TO THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL

Vienna, 5 May 2011

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship for allowing me the opportunity to address this august gathering of OSCE Permanent Council. This is the first time CICA Executive Director has been invited to address the Permanent Council, which is an encouraging sign for future long term cooperation between CICA and OSCE.

My address today will be in two parts. In the first part, I will briefly go over the beginning of the CICA process, its principles and objectives, including cooperative approach, confidence building measures and security concept. In the second part, I will go over possibilities of cooperation between CICA and OSCE.

Information about CICA

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), is a forum based on the recognition that there is a close link between peace, security and stability in Asia and the rest of the world. The Member States, while affirming their commitment to the UN Charter, believe that peace and security in Asia can be achieved through dialogue and cooperation.

The idea of convening CICA was proposed by H.E. Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. At that time Asia did not have any structure covering the entire continent for addressing the issues of peace, security and stability. With the end of cold war and fast changing geo-political and geo-economical scenarios, CICA received support from a number of Asian states, including major Asian powers, that were playing significant role in defining economic and political climate in the continent.

One of the reasons for this support was the fact that CICA aimed to strengthen mutual understanding and create harmoniously designed security system on the Asian continent. CICA offered an opportunity to all Asian states not only for better understanding of each other's security concerns and to cooperate on monitoring and managing conflict issues, but also to help resolve some other problems by interaction in variety of areas.

It must be remembered that while Asia is a geographical entity, it is not a geopolitical entity. Asia is the ethnically and culturally most diverse continent, having some of the largest and the smallest countries with significantly different levels of development and varying priorities. However, the diversity of national characteristics, traditions and values of the Asian states should not be viewed as a divisive, but a valuable and enriching factor to their relations. The importance of mutual understanding was perceived as the driving force in CICA's emphasis on a target-oriented dialogue in finding common ground for achieving shared objectives and common understanding. It was in this context that in the initial stages of discussions for convening CICA, Member States came to an understanding that existing discords in the region could not be an obstacle to finding common approaches to common problems.

The states involved in initial discussions for convening of CICA painstakingly took incremental steps starting with meetings at the level of representatives of the foreign ministries of the interested states. With every meeting the CICA process moved a step forward culminating in the First CICA Ministerial Meeting, at the level of Foreign

Ministers, in Almaty on 14 September 1999. The first ministerial meeting adopted the *Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations among the CICA Member States*, which became the stepping stone towards future evolution of the CICA process.

The First CICA Summit held in Almaty on 4 June 2002 marked the formal launch of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia. The summit was attended by the Heads of States—and Government or the Special envoys from sixteen countries. Almaty Act, the charter of CICA was adopted at the first Summit.

While there is a multiplicity of regional and sub-regional mechanisms in Asia, CICA has its own unique characteristics. For instance, it is the only forum covering the entire Asian continent. Today it has twenty four member states that represent nearly ninety percent of the area and population of Asia. Membership of CICA extends from Turkey in the west to Republic of Korea in the east encompassing countries in Eurasia, Middle East, South, South East and East Asia. CICA is perhaps the only platform outside of United Nations where countries that do not have diplomatic relations, like Iran and Israel, come together for exchange of views and arrive at understandings on issues of common interest.

CICA aims to achieve its basic objectives through implementation of confidence building measures in a cooperative and collaborative approach. It is due to the cooperative and collaborative approach that CICA is in a position to reconcile the diverse concerns; is able to adopt a comprehensive set of documents and declarations and is able to take tangible steps for implementation of confidence building measures. This bears testimony to the commitment of the Member States to the CICA process. It is also seeking mutually acceptable measures for resolving problems and conflicts in the region through dialogue. Member States are exploring ways to keep peace and create greater security and stability through economic integration and cooperation in various spheres. It is the endeavour of the Member States to create a common and indivisible area of security in Asia, where all states co-exist peacefully and their peoples live in conditions of peace, freedom and prosperity.

Practical steps in this direction were elaborated in the Catalogue of CICA confidence building measures. The Catalogue underscores the importance of confidence building measures in five areas: (1) military-political dimension; (2) economic dimension; (3) environmental dimension; (4) human dimension; and (5) fight against new threat and challenges.

Today, Member States are implementing confidence building measures in wide range of areas including interaction in cultural, religious and educational affairs, tourism, development of small and medium enterprises, information technology, energy security, development of secure transport corridors, environment, drug trafficking and meeting new threats and challenges.

Fight against new threats and challenges is a very important issue for the CICA Member States. CICA, on its part, has taken a very strong stand against terrorism. The declaration of the First CICA Summit was devoted exclusively to terrorism. In all subsequent declarations, the Member States have reaffirmed their determination to cooperate on bilateral as well as multilateral basis to combat terrorism, including its possible sources. CICA has not confined itself to merely making statements on the issue of terrorism. CICA also has in place an action plan for implementation of confidence building measures in this dimension, with Turkish Chairmanship as coordinator and Afghanistan as co-coordinator. CICA has also adopted a separate action plan for cooperation among Member States in the area of illicit drug production and trafficking, which is being coordinated by Iran and Co-coordinated by Afghanistan. It must be remembered that Afghanistan is the worst sufferer in both – terrorism and narco-traffic.

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

While the process of implementation of confidence building measures in socio-economic dimensions began in 2007 after adoption of Cooperative Approach for implementation of CICA CBMs, confidence building measures in military-political dimension were not immediately taken up because some of the Member States felt that cooperation in socio-economic dimensions and fight against new threats and challenges would create sufficient goodwill and strengthen mutual relations among the Member States and would eventually be the stepping stone for realization of confidence building measures in military-political dimensions.

Member States of CICA have widely divergent perceptions on the nature and sources of security threats across the CICA region. It is obviously not easy to reconcile these different security perceptions. It is also not possible to claim that the military-political confidence building measures are by themselves sufficient to prevent crisis and ensure peace and stability. It is, nevertheless, important that a beginning should be made by upholding the principles of indivisibility of security and indivisible security.

I am happy to mention here that the Turkish Chairmanship of CICA has taken on hand the important issue of constructing cooperative security in Asia. The theme of the Turkish CICA Chairmanship is "Enhanced Political and Security Dialogue in Asia: Key to Elaborating Cooperative Approaches to Security". The Chairmanship has adopted a calibrated approach for initiating dialogue on implementation of confidence building measures in military-political dimension. The first tangible step in this direction will be meeting of the CICA Chiefs of General Staff, possibly at the end of this year.

Cooperation between CICA and OSCE

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

I believe that CICA was not visualized as analogue to OSCE in Asia. As I mentioned earlier, Asia is far more diverse continent with diverse problems and while Europe enjoyed an era of relative peace in the post-second world war period, Asia witnessed some of the bloodiest conflicts during this period. Moreover, at the inception of the OSCE (the then CSCE), the members were divided into three main groups, namely, the West (NATO), the East (Warsaw Pact) and the Neutral and Non-Aligned Countries (NNAC) within the context of the cold war. It was, therefore, not possible to duplicate an OSCE like structure in Asia. Asia needed a different type of structure and CICA provided that structure.

However, it will be a travesty of fact to say that CICA was not influenced by OSCE.

- There is a considerable convergence in the aims and activities of OSCE and CICA. Some of the common aims and activities of the two bodies are: politico-military dimension of security; combating terrorism; conflict prevention; economic and environmental activities; and cooperation in human dimensions, coinciding with the so called "three baskets" of the OSCE.
- There are also commonalities between CICA confidence building measures and the Document on confidence building measures of the Helsinki Final Act.
- It will not be out of place to mention that out of twenty four Member States of CICA, seven are full members of OSCE while eight are partner states of OSCE.

In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, regional security cannot be seen in isolation. Security environment in one region has an impact in the other regions. Global peace and security can be ensured only if different regional structures cooperate with each other. It is not possible for any single country or any single regional grouping to meet the new challenges which are global in nature. What we

need is collective and collaborative approach that would create objective conditions for understanding and resolution of complex problems faced by the global community. For identifying the issues and finding practical solutions, it is imperative that there should be constructive dialogue and cooperation between different regional groupings.

There is a considerable scope for collaboration and cooperation between CICA and OSCE. OSCE has gained valuable experience in implementation of confidence building measures in politico-military, human, economic and environmental dimensions, as well as in the field of new threats and challenges and their solutions, while CICA has embarked on the path of implementing confidence building measures in these dimensions only recently. CICA can learn from the experience of OSCE in implementing confidence building measures in different areas. CICA can also learn a lot from sophisticated Politico-Military confidence building measures of OSCE. Moreover, regional organizations like CICA and OSCE have an important role to play in countering new threats and challenges. They can address the issues that are typical and of direct relevance to their respective regions.

In recent times, OSCE has been increasingly focusing on terrorism and related new threats and challenges to ensure security in the region. Similarly CICA also aims to create a meaningful security environment to meet these challenges in the region through dialogue, cooperation and confidence building measures among the member states. There are indeed excellent prospects for cooperation between CICA and OSCE in this area. A modest beginning in this direction has already been made. At OSCE's invitation, CICA has been participating in seminars, workshops, etc on terrorism organized by OSCE during last two years. But we can do more in this direction.

Asia is not only the most important source of energy but has also been showing remarkable economic growth over last few years. Asia has emerged as a manufacturing hub and source of supply of cheap goods to the west. Trade and economic ties between Asia and trans-Atlantic region adds to the global stability and comprehensive security. CICA and OSCE can make substantial contribution not only in promoting trade and commerce between their respective regions but can also join hands in establishing safe transportation corridors for energy, goods and people between Asia and Europe. Ensuring safety and preventing misuse of the transportation corridors is one of the important challenges facing the two regions.

Last, but not the least, CICA can also avail itself of the highly developed human rights mechanism of the OSCE, especially in cooperation with ODIHR.

At the same time, we are aware that the nature of challenges faced by CICA region is different from the challenges faced by the OSCE regions. We, therefore, need to identify the specific issues on which the two structures can cooperate and adopt step-by-step approach in carrying forward this cooperation on a long term basis. As a first step, the Secretariats of CICA and OSCE can start working together in identifying these issues and nature of cooperation. As wisely stated by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan at the Third CICA Summit last year, as the Chairman of the OSCE and the founder of CICA, there should be closer and institutional relations between the two organizations.

Thank you!

Principles and objectives

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,

The principles and objectives of CICA, including the basic framework for the relations between the Member States, are laid down in “Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations between the CICA Member States” of 1999 and “The Almaty Act” of 2002, the two founding documents of CICA.

In the Declaration, the CICA Member States reaffirmed, inter alia, their commitment to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; their resolve to give due attention to the prevention of disputes and conflicts and to their peaceful settlement; their determination to explore the possibilities of combining their efforts to enhance confidence and cooperation in the interest of stability, economic and social development in their region and the world. In the Almaty Act, the Member States expressed their commitment to enhance cooperation through elaborating multilateral approaches to security; and to develop CICA as a forum for dialogue and consultations and elaborate measures on security issues in Asia with the objective of developing a common and indivisible area of security in Asia.

The basic principles of CICA are:

- sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty;
- refraining from the threat or use of force;
- territorial integrity of the States;
- peaceful settlement of disputes;
- non-interference in internal affairs of States;
- disarmament and arms control;
- economic, social and cultural cooperation;
- human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The basic objectives of CICA are:

- enhance co-operation through elaborating multilateral approaches towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia;
- eradicate the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;
- combat illicit drug production and trafficking;
- promote trade and economic cooperation for the prosperity and stability in Asia;
- cooperation on all issues relating to environment;
- prevention of proliferation and eventual elimination of weapons of mass destruction;
- develop measures to address humanitarian issues;
- promote mutual respect, understanding and tolerance in the relations among civilizations;
- facilitate implementation of Confidence Building Measures among Member States.