

ENGLISH only

**Written contribution by Ambassador Çinar Aldemir, Executive Director of the
Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) at
the Eighteenth OSCE Ministerial
Council Meeting**

(Vilnius, 6-7 December 2011)

COOPERATION BETWEEN CICA AND OSCE

The idea of convening Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (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. Today, 24 CICA Member States account for nearly 90% of the area and population of the Asian Continent.

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.

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.

CICA was not visualized as analogue to OSCE in Asia. 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 is needed is a 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, however, it should be kept in mind that the nature of challenges faced by CICA region is different from the challenges faced by the OSCE regions. It is, therefore, necessary to identify carefully 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.