

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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**LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 2005 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF KAZAKHSTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXTS OF THE
CATALOGUE OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES AND DECLARATION OF
THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN
ASIA, ADOPTED IN ALMATY, ON 22 OCTOBER 2004**

I have the honour to enclose, hereby, the texts of the Catalogue of confidence building measures and declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, adopted at the their meeting, held in Almaty, on 22 October 2004.

I would be grateful if you would issue the text of the Catalogue of confidence building measures and declaration as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all member States and non-member participating States of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed):

Kairat ABUSSEITOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan

Adopted by the decision of
the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting

CICA CATALOGUE OF CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES (CBMs)

The Member States of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA),

With the aim of enhancing cooperation, creating and strengthening an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship on the Asian continent,

Acting in accordance with the principles and purposes of the UN Charter, Almaty Act and other CICA documents as well as universally recognized norms and principles of international law,

Taking into account specific situations and peculiarities of different regions of Asia,

Have adopted the following principles and measures, leading to strengthening of confidence on the Asian continent and have agreed to their realization in practice on bilateral and/or multilateral basis.

1. General provisions.

1.1 The Member States recognize that the confidence building measures, on the one hand, peaceful settlement of disputes and implementation of agreements on arms control and disarmament, on the other, are complementary and may, depending upon specific situations, be pursued simultaneously by the concerned States through mutual consent.

1.2 The diversity in Asia underscores the importance of measures in military-political dimension as well as in economic, environmental and human dimensions.

1.3 The CICA CBMs will be applied on a gradual and voluntary basis. The CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures and measures identified in it are recommendatory in nature. Any Member State may select certain measures identified in this Catalogue for implementation, where feasible and appropriate. Measures selected by the Member States should be pursued in good faith and to the full extent possible.

1.4 Confidence building measures of the Catalogue are without prejudice to other CBMs, security agreements and/or arrangements on arms control and disarmament, to which the Member States are parties, and these measures will not affect the rights and obligations under these agreements and/or arrangements.

1.5 Nothing in this Catalogue prevents the Member States from adopting other confidence building measures among themselves or with other states.

1.6 The Member States concerned may exchange information within the context of CBMs agreed upon by them. They may also consider submitting this information to the CICA Secretariat for further dissemination.

1.7 The Member State receiving information under the provisions of this Catalogue cannot disclose, publish or transfer it to any third party without the consent of the Member States providing such information.

1.8 The Member States will regularly review implementation of this Catalogue in order to identify the most effective and suitable CBMs for wider implementation in the CICA region and, when necessary, modify or amend those CBMs by consensus.

2. Confidence building measures in military-political dimension

In order to ensure lasting stability, strengthen mutual confidence in military-political dimension, while taking into account their legitimate security interests, the Member States may undertake the following measures:

2.1 Exchange of information, the scope, feasibility and modalities of which will be agreed by the Member States concerned, in accordance with their national laws and regulations, on the following:

- a) components of armed forces;
- b) defense budgets;
- c) presence of foreign military contingents on the territories of the Member States, if release of this information is permitted by the country deploying such a contingent.
- d) notification of planned military activities, including exercises with participation of foreign military contingents, where modalities and parameters of such notification are agreed upon by the Member States concerned.

2.2 Inviting observers from Member States to military exercises.

2.3 Considering mechanisms such as consultation on unexpected and hazardous incidents of a military nature, especially if such incidents occur in close proximity to the border areas of the Member States.

2.4 Developing the following forms of cooperation between their armed forces:

- a) mutual visits by the military authorities and representatives of defense colleges;
- b) mutual invitations for participation in national holidays, cultural and sport events;
- c) information exchange on CV's of top military personnel;
- d) other forms of cooperation as agreed by the Member States.

2.5 Exchange of information on the status of their accession to or ratification of multilateral instruments on arms control and disarmament as well as conventions on the outer space.

3. Fight against new challenges and threats

3.1 The Member States will, in accordance with their national legislation, take cooperative measures in curbing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and in preventing activities of separatist and extremist organizations, with the aim of promoting security and stability of each Member State.

3.2 The Member States will exchange information concerning fight against terrorist, separatist, extremist activities and organized criminal groups and when necessary, develop mechanisms to combat their activities. For this purpose, the Members States may also exchange information on their national authorities in law enforcement sphere and assist in establishing and strengthening contacts between these authorities.

3.3 The Member States may take measures to strengthen cooperation in sharing information in order to deal effectively with proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

3.4 The Member States will exchange information on the measures they have taken to curb drug trafficking, human trafficking, money laundering, trans-boundary organized crime, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS) as well as smuggling of explosives and poisonous materials.

3.5 The Member States will exchange information on the status of their accession to or ratification of the relevant international legal instruments on terrorism and organized crime as well as the steps they have taken to promote fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and organized crime in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

4. Confidence building measures in economic, environmental and human dimensions

In order to promote and strengthen mutual confidence in economic, environmental and human dimensions the Member States may adopt the following measures in accordance with their national laws and regulations:

4.1 Establishment of a common database and a system of data exchange in trade and economic spheres.

4.2 Development and application of common programs on environment protection, especially in border areas, without prejudice to their rights and obligations under relevant bilateral and multilateral instruments.

4.3 Exchange of information on natural and industrial disasters on their territories which in their view may affect their neighbors.

4.4 Exchange of information on their national authorities responsible for development of international tourism and tourist infrastructure and assistance in establishing and strengthening contacts between these authorities.

4.5 Exchange of information regarding suspicious financial transactions, illegal financial operations and assistance in establishing and strengthening contacts between appropriate authorities.

4.6 Exchange of information on their national authorities responsible for disaster management, search-rescue operations with a view to facilitating the establishment and strengthening of contacts between these authorities. Where necessary, the Member States will identify a coordination body, authorized to organize interaction of disaster management and rescue services, and creation of a system of assistance in case of natural disasters and emergency situations.

4.7 Elaboration and implementation of joint projects, aimed at disseminating information on culture and traditions of their peoples, promoting mutual respect and good-neighborly relations between peoples.

4.8 Promotion of contacts between their scientific and educational institutions and non-governmental organizations, including scientific exchanges, exchange of students, joint events with the purpose of, inter alia, elaborating proposals and projects for the achievement of CICA objectives.

4.9 Promotion of dialogue among civilizations, including dialogue among religions.

Almaty, October 22, 2004

**Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the
Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, adopted at
their ministerial meeting in Almaty, 22 October 2004¹**

We, the ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), met today in Almaty to exchange views on the current situation at the regional and global levels and to explore possibilities to further cooperation, peace and security in Asia.

The situation on the Asian continent and in the world is rapidly changing. Peace, development and cooperation are the main trends, but threats to peace and security, such as terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivery and the possibility of their falling in the hands of terrorists, illicit drug trafficking, regional conflicts and disputes, foreign occupation, economic and social problems, in particular poverty, human trafficking and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, continue to exist. These threats and opportunities are global in nature and multilateral efforts by the international community are required to deal with them effectively. The situation in Asia is characterized by the diversity of its political and economic systems and unique cultural traditions, and therefore requires due attention to these particularities in the formulation of approaches for enhancing security and prosperity of our peoples.

We stress that the main objective of CICA is to make its own contribution the enhancement of an atmosphere of peace and security in Asia. In this respect, CICA represents a forum where prospects for our interaction can be discussed and appropriate multilateral approaches for enhancing cooperation can be elaborated in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Almaty Act.

We reaffirm our commitment to uphold and defend the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

We recognize the special role of confidence-building measures in enhancing cooperation and further developing an atmosphere of peace, confidence and friendship in Asia and in creating favourable conditions for finding solutions to problems in the military-political, economic and environmental, humanitarian and cultural spheres.

Recent developments in international relations demonstrate that multilateral approaches based on the widest possible international support are the most effective way to address the challenges of the contemporary world. We therefore reaffirm the central role of the United Nations in the maintenance and promotion of international peace, security and sustainable development in accordance with its Charter. We emphasize the need for reform of the United Nations system to make it more responsive to traditional and new challenges and agree to work towards this goal.

^{1/} Originally issued as document of the General Assembly and the Security Council under the symbol A/59/541-S/2004/873 of 28 October 2004.

We reaffirm that the unit, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, including the right of the Iraqi people as a whole to control their financial and natural resources, should be respected by the international community. We welcome the statement by the Iraqi Interim Government to establish good relations between Iraq and its neighbouring States based on mutual respect and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as to abide by the existing treaties and arrangements, in particular those relevant to internationally recognized borders, and invite Iraq and its neighbouring States to actively cooperate to promote peace and stability in the region, including by eliminating all terrorist presence in their territories. We support the initiation of the political process in Iraq as outlined in United Nations Security Council resolution 1546 (2004). We emphasize that the United Nations should play a central role in this process. We welcome the forthcoming international conference on Iraq to be held in Egypt from 23 to 25 November 2004.

We support the process of political and economic reconstruction in Afghanistan and encourage all countries, including neighbouring States, to intensify their efforts to assist the Afghan Government in promoting stability, economic rehabilitation and fighting terrorism and drug production in the country. We also consider it necessary to continue collective efforts to chart a comprehensive strategy of international actions to counter the drug threat originating from Afghanistan. We welcome the presidential elections in Afghanistan as one of the key elements of the Bonn process and the first most important step towards establishing new state institutions based on democratic principles.

We are concerned with the situation in the Middle East and call upon all parties concerned to resume negotiations to help achieve comprehensive, lasting and just peace, security and stability in this region. We welcome initiatives to achieve this objective, in particular the Roadmap, as endorsed by United Nations Security Council resolution 1515 (2003), and President Bush's vision.

We support the establishment of peace and stability in the South Caucasus, which would serve the interests of all States concerned and enhance the stability of the entire Eurasian region, through the peaceful settlement of conflicts on the basis of the norms and principles of international law and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

We support the process of the Six-Party Talks aimed at denuclearization and the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Korean peninsula. We stand for an early achievement of mutually acceptable agreements that would promote peace, security and cooperation in the Korean peninsula and in north-east Asia as a whole.

We strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, violent manifestations of separatism and extremism and agree to enhance our efforts at bilateral and multilateral levels in fighting these common threats, which undermine the very foundations of international peace and security. The fight against these threats should be global, comprehensive and sustained, not selective or discriminatory, and should avoid applying double standards.

We unequivocally support the presidential statement issued by the Security Council of the United Nations (S/PRST/2004/31) condemning the recent terrorist attacks in the Russian Federation.

We reaffirm that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery pose a threat to international peace and security, and call upon all States to fulfil their respective obligations in the sphere of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, it is vital to prevent terrorist and criminal groups from attempts to acquire nuclear, chemical, biological and radiological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials, and multilateral efforts to reduce this threat should be greatly encouraged.

We emphasize that international efforts to prevent nuclear proliferation should not affect the rights of States to access and use nuclear technology and materials for peaceful purposes, in accordance with their respective obligations emanating from relevant International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards agreements.

We recognize that economic and social progress is a vital component of security and stability in Asia. We therefore stress the importance of the development of regional and subregional dialogue and the strengthening of multilateral cooperative approaches as well as measures, as appropriate, on promoting sustainable development, economic cooperation, the well-being of our peoples and respect for human rights.

We support various multilateral and individual initiatives on development of dialogue among civilizations, which is one of the principal instruments in fighting terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and intolerance and in promoting peaceful coexistence among adherents of different religious or cultures.

Today we adopted decisions reflecting the results of the work done by the States members in order to accomplish tasks given by the heads of State and/or Government at the 2002 CICA Summit and to continue our work in preparations for the next CICA Summit.

Almaty, 22 October 2004
