



**Statement by  
ECO Secretary General,  
H.E. Ambassador Halil İbrahim AKÇA**

**At the  
CICA Ministerial Conference**

**27-28 April 2016, Beijing**

**Your Excellency Mr. Wang Yi,  
Chairman of CICA Ministerial Conference,  
Your Excellencies Honourable Foreign Ministers,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It's a matter of great delight for me to represent the Economic Cooperation Organization at the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA. At the outset let me express my gratitude to the host of this meeting and the current chair of the CICA, the People's Republic of China, for their gracious invitation to ECO to participate in this important event. Under the chairmanship of China, CICA is indeed making steady headway and emerging as an effective forum for the countries of Asia, aimed at enhancing cooperation.

I am also much delighted to be here in Beijing, a city with a rich background and illustrious past. I cherish great hospitality and value the warm welcome extended to me by our hosts.

**Mr. Chairman**

An initiative of His Excellency Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of Kazakhstan – an active member of the ECO, CICA is committed to promote confidence, trust and security in Asia, and has made tremendous progress and covered important milestones since its inception, as reflected through its diverse membership and their commitment to carry forward the CICA process and implement the agreed Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

We have gathered here at the time when our region is confronted with enormous challenges which pose serious threats to the peace, stability, and economic development of Asia and the rest of the World. Challenges like aggravating poverty, lack of financial opportunities, and despair cause anger that breeds extremism and provides the recruiting grounds for the Terrorists. In a world of today, which is more like a globalized village,

happenings in one part directly affect the affairs of the other part. This is why the conflicts and challenges that we face today warrant collective response as such conflicts can only be resolved by close interaction and collective effort. In this context, CICA is a valuable forum for interaction and dialogue focusing on the challenges of the modern times.

**Mr. Chairman**

ECO appreciates CICA's important role to strengthen the mutual ties between the countries of Asia as ECO member states also constitute a great part of the CICA membership. At ECO, we strongly believe that economic cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels is the key to promote regional and global peace and security. This is why the MoU between the ECO and CICA focuses on a number of key priority areas to promote regional cooperation for the achievement of our common development goals, which in turn provides a solid foundation for sustainable peace, security and prosperity. ECO is looking forward to further develop the cooperation and seek partnership of CICA in areas such as transport, tourism, environment and drug control, as per the MoU concluded between the two organizations in 2008.

CICA is unique in the sense that it represents the diversity and richness of the great continent of Asia. Focused on close interaction and cooperation among the Asian Countries, CICA is striving for a bright future of this great continent and the world at large. ECO is also committed to the goal of a prosperous, peaceful and stable Asia and the World, and is honored to work side by side with partners like CICA towards that end.

**I thank you Mr. Chairman**