

Statement
by the ECO Secretary General H.E. Mr. Khusrav Noziri
at the 6th Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs
Nur-Sultan, October 12, 2021

Your Excellency Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi,
Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan,
Honorable Foreign Ministers,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,

It is distinct honour and privilege for me to attend the 6th Meeting of CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs. At the very outset, I wish to avail this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Secretariat of the CICA for inviting me as Secretary General of the ECO to this august forum.

Recently under the current chairmanship of Kazakhstan, CICA has made significant reforms and transformed it into a reputable and more effective intergovernmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking into account the recent challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and evolving regional security threats, the importance of promoting CICA process and implementing agreed Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) in Asia has increased manifolds. There is a growing understanding that the key to accomplishing practical and efficient solutions to these challenges lies in collective efforts and mutually beneficial integration.

We in the ECO are also driven by the same concept. ECO, a unique intergovernmental regional economic organization that brings together countries from Caucuses, Central Asia, South and West Asia, is dedicated to enhancing regional integration and economic cooperation. We also recognize the strong interdependence between peace and development, and reiterate our firm belief that peace and stability are essential for realizing the genuine goals of economic growth, sustainable development and welfare of our countries and peoples.

In this context, ECO values its cooperative relationship with CICA and we strongly believe that the joint efforts of ECO and CICA will contribute significantly in bringing durable peace and achieving sustainable prosperity in the region. The relationship between ECO and CICA was institutionalized in 2008 by signing an MoU, providing the basis for mutual cooperation between the two sides. Based on this MoU, I would like to invite CICA to jointly initiate the process for developing a comprehensive Work Programme for the achievement of our common goals in the areas of mutual interests.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by mentioning that ECO accords high priority to further promoting and enhancing its ties and partnership with CICA. On behalf of the ECO Secretariat, I assure you of our fullest support towards that end.

Thank you.
