



**SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION  
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN ASIA**

**СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ  
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

**No. BC/1205**

The Secretariat of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) presents its compliments to the CICA Member States and has the honour to inform the following.

In response to the proposal from the Kyrgyz Republic to reschedule the CICA Business Council and Business Forum, originally planned for the fourth quarter of 2024 in Bishkek, the CICA Business Council Board, during its meeting on 17 September 2024, decided to hold the Seventh Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council, followed by the CICA Business Forum, on 20 November 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

*Enclosure:  
as stated,  
on 8 p.*

Furthermore, the Secretariat is honored to share the following materials for the review of the Member States:

- Draft Concept Paper for the Seventh Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council and Ninth Business Forum
- Updated draft Agenda for the Seventh Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council
- Draft Decision of the Seventh Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council
- Technical Guidelines

The Secretariat kindly requests that Member States provide their comments on the draft Concept Paper, including suggestions for guest speakers, by 8 November 2024.

**MEMBER STATES  
OF THE CONFERENCE ON INTERACTION  
AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES  
IN ASIA**



A draft Programme will be circulated in due course.

Online registration for the CICA Business Council (members only) and the Business Forum (open to business communities from CICA Member States) is available via the following link: <https://s-cica.org/registration/>.

The Secretariat kindly requests Member States to complete registration by 15 November 2024.

For any inquiries regarding the CICA Business Council and Business Forum, please contact:

- **Ms. Dana Kassymova**, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department, Chamber of International Commerce of Kazakhstan  
WhatsApp: +7 (701) 520-81-85  
Email: Umitei80@mail.ru
- **Ms. Akmaral Kinzhebayeva**, Senior Officer, CICA Secretariat  
Email: a.kinzhebayeva@s-cica.org  
Phone: +7 (7172) 57 64 96

The Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the CICA Member States the assurances of its highest consideration.

Astana, 18 October 2024



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**СЕКРЕТАРИАТ СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ  
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**

**№ BC/1205**

Секретариат Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) свидетельствует свое уважение государствам-членам СВМДА и имеет честь сообщить о нижеследующем.

В ответ на предложение Кыргызской Республики о переносе сроков проведения Делового совета и Бизнес-форума СВМДА, первоначально запланированных на четвертый квартал 2024 года в Бишкеке, Правление Делового совета СВМДА в ходе своего заседания 17 сентября 2024 года приняло решение о проведении седьмой пленарной сессии Делового совета СВМДА и Бизнес-форума СВМДА 20 ноября 2024 года в Астане, Казахстан.

*Приложение:  
упомянутое,  
на 8 л.*

Кроме того, Секретариат имеет честь представить на рассмотрение государств-членов следующие материалы:

- проект концепции седьмой пленарной сессии Делового совета СВМДА и девятого Бизнес-форума;
- обновленный проект повестки дня седьмой пленарной сессии Делового совета СВМДА;
- проект решения седьмой пленарной сессии Делового совета СВМДА;
- техническое руководство.

Секретариат любезно просит государства-члены представить свои комментарии по проекту концепции, включая предложения в отношении приглашаемых докладчиков, до 8 ноября 2024 года.

**ГОСУДАРСТВА-ЧЛЕНЫ  
СОВЕЩАНИЯ ПО ВЗАИМОДЕЙСТВИЮ  
И МЕРАМ ДОВЕРИЯ В АЗИИ**



Проект программы будет распространен в надлежащее время.

Онлайн-регистрация на Деловой совет СВМДА (только для членов) и Бизнес-форум (для деловых кругов из государств-членов СВМДА) доступна по следующей ссылке: <https://s-cica.org/registration/>.

Секретариат любезно просит государства-члены завершить регистрацию до 15 ноября 2024 года.

По любым вопросам, касающимся Делового совета и Бизнес-форума СВМДА можно обратиться к:

- **г-же Дәне Касымовой**, заместителю Директора Департамента международного сотрудничества Внешнеторговой палаты Казахстана  
WhatsApp: +7 (701) 520-81-85  
эл. почта: [umitei80@mail.ru](mailto:umitei80@mail.ru)
- **г-же Акмарал Кинжебаевой**, старшему специалисту Секретариата СВМДА  
эл. почта: [a.kinzhebayeva@s-cica.org](mailto:a.kinzhebayeva@s-cica.org)  
телефон: +7 (7172) 57 64 96

Секретариат пользуется случаем, чтобы возобновить государствам-членам СВМДА уверения в своем весьма высоком уважении.

город Астана, 18 октября 2024 года

## **Concept Paper**

### **Seventh Plenary Session of the Business Council and Ninth Business Forum of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

**Date:** 20 November 2024

**Venue:** Wyndham Garden Hotel (Altay Hall), Astana, Kazakhstan

#### **Aims and Objectives:**

- Discuss challenges and opportunities in leveraging artificial intelligence for SME development, enhancing cross-border trade through e-commerce advancements, addressing new challenges in logistics and infrastructure, empowering women in SMEs across the CICA region, and prioritizing sustainable development in SMEs.
- Explore ways to enhance cooperation between small and medium enterprises (SMEs) within the CICA region.
- Create a network among CICA Member States to continuously exchange information on best practices and developments in the mentioned areas.
- Contribute to the reinvigoration of international economic cooperation.

#### **Who Will Benefit?**

By generating new ideas and sharing best practices through interactive discussions, SMEs will be better equipped to work in artificial intelligence, e-commerce, logistics and infrastructure, women's empowerment, and sustainable development.

Government officials of the CICA Member States will better understand SMEs' current challenges and opportunities, particularly in the abovementioned areas. This information can inform the formulation of policies more responsive to SMEs' needs, driving economic growth and innovation.

#### **What is the CICA Business Council?**

The CICA Business Council is an advisory body within the economic dimension of CICA, promoting cooperation among Member States in the field of SMEs. The Council comprises three members from each of the 28 CICA Member States—two representing business communities and one from a national state body responsible for SME development. The Business Council is overseen by the Chairman of the Board, representing the CICA Chairmanship. Currently, the

Council is chaired by Mr. Raimbek Batalov, Chairman of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan, with deputies from Russia, Thailand, and Türkiye assisting him. The CICA Secretariat coordinates all activities related to these events, including program development and maintaining correspondence with participants.

## **Program**

In December 2024, Azerbaijan will assume the CICA Chairmanship and lead some CICA advisory bodies, including the Business Council. Consequently, Mr. Raimbek Batalov, the current Chair of the CICA Business Council, will present a progress report on the achievements of Kazakhstan's Chairmanship in the Business Council from 2020 to 2024 and introduce the incoming Chair, nominated by Azerbaijan.

Members of the CICA Business Council will deliver presentations on the agenda items, followed by interactive discussions.

Following the Seventh Plenary Session, the Ninth Business Forum will present investment projects from CICA Member States. We invite all interested businesses to showcase their projects and engage with the attending business communities.

## **Guests**

The following speakers are proposed to be invited to the plenary session of the Business Council and the Business Forum: representatives from the Islamic Development Bank, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Asian Bank for Infrastructure Investment, UN Women for Asia Pacific, UNESCAP, and UNESCWA.

Additionally, plans are in place to invite the Afghan business community to participate in the Ninth CICA Business Forum.

## **Other Organisational Matters**

Given the attendance of business circles and government bodies from Member States, there will be opportunities for business-to-business and government-to-government meetings. All participants are expected to cover their own accommodation and meal expenses. The CICA Secretariat will provide simultaneous English-Russian interpretation during the Business Council and Business Forum sessions.

**Focal Points for the Event:**

- Ms. Dana Kassymova, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department, the Chamber of International Commerce of Kazakhstan, WhatsApp +7 (701) 520-81-85, Umitei80@mail.ru
- Ms. Akmaral Kinzhebayeva, Senior Officer, the CICA Secretariat: a.kinzhebayeva@s-cica.org, + 7(7172) 57 64 96

**Draft Agenda**  
**of the Seventh plenary session of the CICA Business Council**

1. The progress report on the work accomplished during Kazakhstan's Chairmanship from 2020 to 2024, presented by Mr. Raimbek Batalov, Chair of the CICA Business Council.
2. Introduction of the incoming Chair nominated by Azerbaijan and the change in the composition of the CICA Business Council Board.
3. The report presented by the Chair of the CICA Think Tank Forum on progress made in researching the following topics:
  - **“National Approaches and Incentives Used by CICA Member States to Support Small and Medium Enterprises”**, including a plan to hold a seminar in 2025 with CICA Business Council members on this topic.
  - **“Involvement of Women in Small and Medium Enterprises in the CICA Region: Challenges and Opportunities”**, with a report to be presented at the Eighth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council in 2025.
4. Presentations by Business Council members on the following topics:
  - **Leveraging artificial intelligence for SME development:**  
Discussion on the integration of artificial intelligence into small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to foster growth.
  - **Enhancing cross-border trade through e-commerce advancements:**  
Exploring strategies to boost cross-border trade and foster growth opportunities in e-commerce.
  - **Navigating new challenges in logistics and infrastructure:**  
Addressing emerging challenges in logistics and infrastructure and exploring innovative solutions.
  - **Empowering women in small and medium enterprises across the CICA region:**  
Exploring challenges, opportunities, and pathways to enhance participation and success.



- **Prioritizing sustainable development in SMEs:**  
Highlighting the significance of sustainable development within SMEs and exploring implementation approaches.
5. Presentations on agenda item 4 by guest speakers from the Islamic Development Bank, the Eurasian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, UN Women for Asia Pacific, UNESCAP, and UNESCWA.
  6. Determination of agenda, place, and the preliminary timing for holding the Eight Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council.

*As of 1 October 2024*

## **Draft Decision of the Seventh Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council**

The CICA Business Council held its Seventh Plenary Session in a hybrid format on 20 November 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The Council has decided to:

1. **Acknowledge** the progress report on the work accomplished during Kazakhstan's Chairmanship from 2020 to 2024, presented by Mr. Raimbek Batalov, Chair of the CICA Business Council.
2. **Welcome** the introduction of the incoming Chair nominated by Azerbaijan and note the change in the composition of the CICA Business Council Board.
3. **Note** the presentations by Business Council members on the following topics:
  - Leveraging artificial intelligence for SME development
  - Enhancing cross-border trade through e-commerce advancements
  - Addressing new challenges in logistics and infrastructure
  - Empowering women in SMEs across the CICA region
  - Prioritizing sustainable development in SMEs
4. **Acknowledge** the report from the Chair of the Think Tank Forum on progress made in researching the following topics:
  - **“National Approaches and Incentives Used by CICA Member States to Support Small and Medium Enterprises”**, including a plan to hold a seminar in 2025 with CICA Business Council members on this topic.
  - **“Involvement of Women in Small and Medium Enterprises in the CICA Region: Challenges and Opportunities”**, with a report to be presented at the Eighth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council in 2025.
5. **Note** the presentations from guest organizations, including:
  - The Islamic Development Bank
  - The Eurasian Development Bank

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- UN Women for Asia Pacific
- UNESCAP
- UNESCWA

6. **Include** the following items in the agenda for the Eighth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council in 2025:

- Role and Contribution of SMEs in Developing Smart Cities and National Incentives for Their Support
- Promote industrial cooperation and foster participation of SMEs in GVCs, including use of digital services and platforms
- [To be specified]
- [To be specified]

7. Confirm Baku, Azerbaijan, as the host city and 2025 as the tentative year for the Eighth Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council and the ninth Business Forum.

## **Technical guidelines**

of the Seventh Plenary Session of the CICA Business Council and  
the Ninth CICA Business Forum

*CICA Business Council (Members Only) at 10:00 (Astana Time, +5 GMT) &*

*Business Forum (CICA BC Members and CICA Member States Business Community)  
at 14:30 – 20 November 2024*

- The working languages of the meeting are English and Russian.
- Each participant must log on to the Zoom platform, preferably 10 minutes before the scheduled time.
- While accessing the Zoom platform, all participants are requested to type their country's name as identification.
- All participants are requested to keep their mics muted during the meeting. When a participant wishes to speak, he/she may raise his/her hand virtually using the "Raise Hand."
- The link for the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86913222795?pwd=KLmRWbo8u8svlwE48f2bbgyUaionip.1>

Meeting ID: 869 1322 2795

Passcode: 277415

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