

**Statement by the CICA Turkish Chairmanship
on the occasion of the
“Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in Central Asia”
15-16 March 2011, Almaty**

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to thank UNHCR and IOM for the invitation extended to the Secretariat of CICA, Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia, for this significant joint event.

Seizing this opportunity, I would like to congratulate the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for hosting this conference as well as taking initiative to gather stakeholders from public, private and international domain to address the issues in relation to the refugee protection and migration in Central Asia.

Let me also share my conviction that this conference, the fifth and last in a series of conferences, will provide the participants with invaluable guidelines to further consolidate and synchronize their policies and approaches on migration and refugee matters, which will hopefully help all stakeholders to design coherent and effective policies to tackle these issues in a comprehensive manner.

The CICA Turkish Chairmanship’s statement is as follows:

“In today’s interconnected world, interdependence is the key to understand the essence of current problems, be it political, economic or environmental, as well as to bring about solutions to them. In today’s world, simply no country has the capacity to deal with the challenges it faces on its own.

With this mindset, the CICA process, conceptualized in the early 1990s by HE Nursultan Nazarbayev, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, was initialized with the adoption of the Declaration on Principles Guiding Relations Among Member States on 14 September 1999. The Declaration and the Almaty Act, adopted on 4 June 2002, constitute the founding documents of CICA.

Indeed, the CICA process gained a significant momentum after establishment of its Secretariat in Almaty in 2006. The fact that, as of today, CICA has become an international organization with 24 member states as well as 8 countries and 3 international organizations with observer status, makes it one of the most comprehensive and inclusive international bodies. All Central Asian countries, except Turkmenistan, happen to be the members of CICA.

Today, the need to assess current security threats in an indivisible and comprehensive manner has become all the more vital. The principle of indivisibility of security refers to the fact that the security of every member state is inseparably interlinked. Moreover, comprehensive security not only refers to conventional military aspect, but also takes into account the economic, human and environmental dimensions.

With this understanding, CICA conducts its activities within the scope of several dimensions of security, namely military-political; economic; environmental and human dimension. While we have witnessed significant rise of asymmetric and non-conventional threats, such as terrorism, human and drug trafficking in the last decade or so, new threats and challenges emerged as another dimension of security that CICA has involved itself.

While promotion of peace and security among its member states through constructive dialogue and cooperation constitute the ultimate goal of CICA, Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), adopted in 2004, provides its members with a useful toolbox to achieve this end. In the Catalogue, human trafficking is considered in the context of New Threats and Challenges and member states are encouraged to cooperate on this issue.

In fact, CICA is not involved directly with migration and refugee issues. However, given the close relation between human-trafficking, illegal migration and terrorism, CICA is well aware of the need to tackle these interrelated problems in a comprehensive and coherent manner.

In this respect, at the CICA First Police Chiefs Meeting, held on 27 May 2010 in Antalya, Turkey, the CICA member states decided to establish

contact points network among police agencies for ensuring reliable and timely sharing of intelligence and information, inter alia, on all forms of trafficking with a view to enhancing border control and management.

Moreover, the Chairmanship, currently held by Turkey, will organize and host the first CICA-IOM Joint Forum on Human Trafficking and Smuggling on 30 May 2011 in Antalya. What we expect from this event is to discuss modalities of multilateral cooperation within CICA on human trafficking; elaborate on law enforcement systems of the respective member countries, data collection and analysis on patterns of illegal migration. We also hope this forthcoming event in Antalya will serve CICA member states policy options and provide opportunity on capacity building and sharing best practices on dealing with human trafficking issues.

Last but not least, the Chairmanship has examined UNHCR's 10-Point Plan with keen interest and is eager to engage in a result-oriented cooperation with other stakeholders, such as UNHCR and IOM, particularly on the items of "*cooperation among key partners*" as well as "*data collection and analysis*". Having said that, the Chairmanship will examine ways in which CICA can provide an added value in this area.

In conclusion, it is our conviction that the transboundary issues require constructive and genuine collaboration among all stakeholders. This is incumbent upon us if we are to contribute to finding sustainable and tangible solutions on migration related issues. The CICA Turkish Chairmanship is ready to play its part to achieve this end."

Thank you.