

(Translation)

**Deepen Mutual Trust and Coordination and Work Together for  
Regional Security and Development**

Keynote Address by Foreign Minister Wang Yi  
At the Fifth Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Conference on Interaction  
And Confidence Building Measures in Asia

28 April 2016

Dear Colleagues,  
Distinguished Guests,

Let me once again welcome you all to the Fifth Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

Earlier, speaking on behalf of the Chinese government, President Xi Jinping laid out China's views and proposals on how to put into practice the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security and build a security governance model with Asian characteristics. They represent another important contribution China has made to the development of CICA in addition to the Asian security vision it proposed at the CICA Shanghai Summit in May 2014. What China has done will play an active and constructive role in advancing the CICA process, deepen security dialogue and cooperation in Asia and uphold regional peace, security and stability.

The theme of this foreign ministers' meeting, "Promoting Security Through Dialogue", is widely endorsed by member states. It is closely related to the current situation in Asia and meets the urgent need of all parties to pursue security, stability and development. It represents another important effort to promote the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative, and sustainable security. At today's meeting, I hope we will engage in a lively and candid discussion to enhance mutual trust and expand consensus. I look forward to your insight on how Asia could enhance dialogue and consultation to meet its security challenges, improve security governance model, promote mutual reinforcement between security and development, and strengthen the institutional building and CBM cooperation of CICA.

Dear Colleagues,

Distinguished Guests,

Since its inception twenty-four years ago, CICA has followed the underlying trend of multi-polarity and regional integration and made unique contribution to increasing trust and coordination among countries and exploring a new road of security and development suited to the reality of Asia and the common interests of Asian nations.

— **CICA has put in place a common code of conduct for countries in the region.** The *Declaration on the Principles Guiding Relations Between the CICA Members States* released at the first foreign ministers' meeting in 1999 identified core principles as basic norms governing state-to-state relations, which include mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-use or threat of force, non-interference in internal affairs, and peaceful settlement of disputes through negotiation. These principles embody the unique wisdom and values of Asia and are widely followed by Asian countries in addressing disputes and conducting mutually beneficial cooperation, thus contributing to regional and global stability and development.

— **CICA was the first to establish the model of "CBM cooperation".** The basic framework of CICA consists of the *CICA Catalogue of Confidence Building Measures*, the *Cooperative Approach for the Implementation of the CICA CBMs*, and the proposals and plans of action on implementing CBMs in various fields. CICA has identified five priority areas for cooperation, i.e. the military and political dimension, new challenges and threats, economic dimension, people-to-people exchange, and environmental dimension. In addition, cooperation is also under way in 11 other areas, including combating illicit drugs, SMEs, youth, tourism and information technology. Together, they have shaped a comprehensive system for CBM cooperation. CBM cooperation, as an innovative approach in international relations, meets the diverse need of various countries for security and development, and represents a new model that brings out countries' initiative and enhances political mutual trust and security cooperation.

— **CICA has created a new platform for exchange and cooperation.** CICA is Asia's largest and most representative security forum with the greatest number of participants. Its regular summits, foreign ministers' meetings, fora and workshops enable member states, observers, relevant international organizations and important countries within and beyond this region to carry out in-depth exchange of views on regional affairs and major issues of interest. It opens a new channel for

various parties to enhance mutual understanding, deepen mutual trust, build consensus and jointly promote development.

Dear Colleagues,  
Distinguished Guests,

As one of its founding members, China highly values CICA and has actively participated in, supported and advanced the CICA process. Since assuming CICA chairmanship in 2014, China has earnestly fulfilled its responsibility and worked with other members to implement the consensus of the Shanghai Summit, deepen CBM cooperation and strengthen external exchanges. New progress has been made over the past two years.

**First, cooperation is expanded and substantiated.** CICA member states such as Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey, Iran, India, Thailand and Bangladesh made active efforts and served as coordinators or co-coordinators for implementing CBMs. They developed detailed action plans on implementing CBMs in the political and military dimension, the growth of SMEs and in jointly combating illicit drug trafficking. Parties also pursued exchanges and cooperation in areas such as economy and trade, youth, tourism, environmental protection, information technology and the military through diversified activities including seminars and workshops, training courses, youth summer camps and visits to military bases. As the chair, China actively assisted coordinators in their endeavors and hosted several major events including the First Conference of CICA Youth Council and the Fourth CICA Business Forum and Founding Assembly of CICA Business Council, which gave a strong boost to cooperation in relevant fields.

**Second, cooperation mechanism is further improved with innovation.** As proposed by President Xi Jinping at the Shanghai Summit in 2014, China, with the support from various parties, set up the CICA Non-Governmental Forum and held its first annual meeting in 2015, which serves as an important platform for non-governmental exchanges and cooperation. The annual meeting brought together former statesmen, experts, scholars, media and NGOs and produced many forward-looking and creative ideas on issues relating to regional security and development. China also entrusted prestigious think tanks to hold CICA Think Tank Roundtable regularly to provide well-targeted intellectual support in light of the dynamics of CICA development and cooperation.

**Third, the network of partners is further expanded.** Following the

Shanghai Summit, Bangladesh and Qatar became full members and Belarus joined CICA as an observer. The CICA Secretariat signed MOUs with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Secretariat, the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on official cooperation. Now, CICA membership covers more than half of Asian countries and its observers and cooperative partners come from every corner of the Eurasian continent and even the other side of the Pacific. This shows that CICA's approach of promoting trust through dialogue, maintaining security through trust and seeking development through security is getting more endorsement and its cohesion and appeal are steadily rising.

**Fourth, external exchanges are increasingly robust.** Over the past two years, the Executive Director of the Secretariat, on behalf of CICA, had active exchanges with the UN and its agencies, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Arab League, the SCO, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-Speaking Countries (TURKPA) and attended a number of events upon invitation including the general debate of the UN General Assembly, Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, the SCO Summit and the Meeting of Heads of Government, the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference, the Xiangshan Forum and the Ministerial Conference of the Istanbul Process. These exchanges and cooperation helped CICA to play its role and raised CICA's voice and profile.

The above achievements are fully recognized in the *Conclusions of Achievements in the Development of CICA during the Period 2014-2016* adopted by the Senior Officials' Meeting. They would not have been possible without the hard work of all member states. Taking this opportunity, I wish to express heartfelt gratitude to you all for your strong support to and collaboration with China over the past two years' of its chairmanship, and also for your contributions to CICA's development.

Dear Colleagues,  
Distinguished Guests,

Last September, the CICA member states unanimously agreed to extend China's chairmanship until 2018. It is a recognition of China's work as the chair, and more importantly, it shows everybody's confidence in the future of China and Asia as a whole. China is keenly aware of the huge responsibility on its shoulder. In the *Conclusions of 2014-2016*

*CICA Chinese Chairmanship and 2016-2018 Chairmanship Working Envisage* circulated at this meeting, China has outlined the proposed agenda for the coming two years and we welcome your contributions. China will work with all parties to advance CICA process in the following four areas to promote regional security cooperation.

**First, strengthen solidarity and mutual trust and expand convergence of interests.** As an Asian proverb goes, "With solidarity, there is no place for tensions." In the face of the security challenges in Asia, it is important for all parties to demonstrate political wisdom, seek common ground while reserving and resolving differences, follow the principle of consensus building, increase converging interests and create conditions to truly meet the security challenges. China regards all countries in this region as equal and important partners and is ready to engage in sincere discussions with all parties on regional security and development. I will continue with the useful practice of CICA and convene an informal meeting on the margins of the general debate of the UN General Assembly in New York next year where we can discuss a wide range of topics concerning regional and global security and development.

**Second, carry out practical cooperation to boost confidence.** As security and CBM cooperation involves a wide range of issues, it is important to take into account the concerns of all parties and move forward in an incremental way. It is advisable to start from those areas where there is a high degree of consensus and conditions are ready. The coordinators or co-coordinators may play the central role while parties form relevant groups on their own to carry out cooperation in a flexible manner. In this way, parties can leverage their respective strengths and share the benefits of cooperation, creating a snowball effect. China is ready to serve as the coordinator or co-coordinator in areas such as finance and agriculture and work with others to identify the missing links, tap potentials and improve cooperation mechanisms. China will also provide support and assistance to the best of its ability with regard to organizing, coordinating and hosting relevant events, work for early breakthroughs in multiple areas and take CICA cooperation to a higher level.

**Third, strengthen capacity building and explore new dimensions of development.** As one Chinese saying puts it, "The foundations must be laid before a house is built." The sustained development of CICA depends on continuous improvement in procedures, legal framework, cooperation efficiency and capacity-building. China is considering hosting the Second

Annual Conference of CICA Non-Governmental Forum and the Sixth Think Tank Roundtable in the first half of next year to encourage all parties to explore a new Asian security architecture at the track II and non-governmental level with a focus on the establishment of hot-spot issue mediation mechanism, counter-terrorism and law enforcement cooperation and security support for the "Belt and Road" Initiative so as to create conditions and build consensus for CICA's future development and transformation.

**Fourth, stay open and inclusive and expand external exchanges.** China is ready to work with all parties to enlarge CICA membership and its partnership network, engage in more dialogues, exchanges and coordination on international and regional security to further promote the CICA approach and the Asian security vision, discuss and offer solutions for Asian security issues and enhance the role and influence of CICA in regional security and development affairs.

Dear Colleagues,  
Distinguished Guests,

Asia's security, development and future all depend on our concerted efforts. In its neighborhood diplomacy, China will continue to follow the principle of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness as put forward by President Xi Jinping, strengthen solidarity and mutual trust, deepen CBM cooperation and work together with all of you to give CICA a bigger role in Asia's security and development affairs and write a new chapter of peace, stability, development and prosperity for Asia and the world at large.

Thank you.