

**Statement by Ambassador Çinar Aldemir, Executive Director of CICA
(5 December 2011, Bonn)**

Mr. Chairman, Honorable Ministers, Excellencies and the distinguished Participants,

It is great honour for me to address this very important Conference intending to mobilize international community in support of Afghanistan's future "From Transition to Transformation", a process which was initiated 10 years ago in Bonn itself. We wish that the next step forward to transformation of Afghanistan into a fully functioning, sustainable and peaceful sovereign State, proposed in this Conference, meets the same success.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (also known by its abbreviated name as CICA) firmly believes that a stable and prosperous Afghanistan is crucial for peace and stability, not only in the region, but for the entire world. CICA Member States have clearly stated in the "Third CICA Istanbul Summit" last year, that they were ready to render to Afghanistan all possible assistance in achieving this objective. The regional aspect of cooperation, as also proposed in the Istanbul Conference on Afghanistan, held on 2 November 2011, will play an important and meaningful role in the process of Afghanistan's transformation.

Afghanistan is one of the Founding Members of CICA. Right from the time of its inception, CICA has encouraged the Member States to forge closer cooperation with Afghanistan, including in the areas of combating terrorism, the illicit drug production, trafficking of narcotic drugs and their chemical precursors, as well as Afghanistan's reconstruction. The CICA Member States have been extending humanitarian and the development assistance, including food aid, to Afghanistan.

CICA is also trying to address the problems faced by Afghanistan through the mechanism of “Confidence Building Measures”. CICA has embarked on the process of implementation of confidence building measures both in the socio-economic dimensions and in the fight against “new challenges and threats” that include among others, terrorism and the illicit drug production and trafficking.

In socio-economic dimension, CICA Member States have agreed to promote cooperation in the areas of human dimension, development of secure transportation corridors, development of small and medium enterprises, environment, energy security, information technology and tourism, among others. Afghanistan is the co-coordinator for confidence building measures in the areas of new challenges and threats and the illicit drug production and trafficking.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that CICA’s efforts towards Afghanistan’s security, stability and prosperity were also set forth in the Istanbul Conference. It is hoped that the CICA’s measures will augment the international efforts aimed at the reconstruction of Afghanistan and the fight against terrorism and the illicit drugs. We will be very happy to cooperate and join resources with the international community in the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan in order to help revive this country as a stable and prosperous member of the CICA family and the international community.

Thank you.
