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## Analysis of the prospects for cooperation between the CICA and the SCO in ensuring Asian security

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**Abstract.** This article examines the role and significance of the regional structures of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the context of ensuring security and stability in the Asian region. The authors of this article used both classical theories of international relations, such as realism and liberalism, and theories such as the comprehensive theory of regional security, dependence theory, geopolitical theory and the concept of confidence-building measures.

The article provides a comparative analysis of the approaches of the two structures separately on the basis of regulatory documents, highlighting the effectiveness of their activities, as well as problematic aspects and prospects in the context of challenges threatening Asian security. The article first provides a historical overview of the evolution of the development of the CICA and SCO organizations, then illustrates their approaches in the context of Asian security factors independently. Both CICA and the SCO play crucial roles in fostering cooperation and addressing security concerns in Asia, with participants actively contributing to the development and implementation of regional initiatives and policies.

Comparing the approaches of these two structures in the context of ensuring Asian security, the authors identified common features and a number of differences within the certain criteria. To achieve the goal, the authors used comparative and historical methods, as well as the method of spatial analysis. The authors analyzed a number of works by both Kazakh and foreign researchers.

**Keywords:** CICA, SCO, Asian security, international terrorism, confidence-building measures, initiatives of Kazakhstan, modern geopolitics.

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## **Introduction**

In the current geopolitical and globalized environment, the role of security is growing not only at the national level of countries, but also at the regional level within the framework of cooperation between countries. Collective security within regional structures is essential for countries, as the absence of a collectively directed policy can lead to significant risks of undermining and destroying the significant position of the region in the geopolitical map. The Asian region occupies one such key position in the international political arena.

The relevance of cooperation between the countries of the Asian region is primarily due to economic benefits, but also to the need for security, stability, and safety in the region. The main factor for ensuring Asian security is the threat of limited localized and spread between countries regional clashes and conflicts. And such regional challenges are becoming more and more every day and they, in turn, stem from the presence of huge economic, human, and natural resources in Asian states.

United regional integration of stability and security is manifested in overarching multilateral structures such as the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (hereinafter referred to as CICA) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (hereinafter referred to as SCO). These platforms aim to support collective security issues in the Asian region by developing their approaches and paradigms of convergence, as well as the implementation of mutually beneficial partnership arrangements among the countries of the region.

Currently, although the Asian regional structures of the CICA and the SCO are definitely paramount on the background of developing the landscape of Asian security and stability, nevertheless, their approaches and norms for ensuring sustainability in the region may diverge. Moreover, the level of potential and power of these regional structures in the context of maintaining security, stability and sustainability in Asia also raises a number of questions.

In this regard, a comprehensive and comparative study of the functioning and activities of the CICA and SCO structures is necessary in the context of an analysis of their effectiveness, problematic aspects, and possible prospects.

Purpose of the article is based on the analysis of regulatory documents of the two organizations, to identify the similarities and differences of such organizations as the CICA and the SCO in ensuring Asian security.

To address the research question, the authors of the article set the task of determining the criteria for comparative analysis. Namely, on the basis of a comparative analysis of the procedures and norms provided for by the systems of CICA and SCO mechanisms, to identify the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms' tools in ensuring Asian security.

Through a comparative analysis of regulatory documents, identify the main approaches that will allow us to respond to challenges and combat threats in order to ensure the security of the countries participating in these organizations.

## **Literature review**

The topic of analysis of the activities and approaches of the international organizations CICA and SCO in the context of the Asian region security is vividly covered in the normative-

legal documents of the organizations, as well as in a number of works of both Kazakhstani and foreign researchers.

Firstly, the beginning of the development of the CICA in the context of ensuring Asian security is analyzed in accordance with the legal documents of the multilateral structure, such as the Declaration of Principles (1999) [1] and the Almaty Act (2002) [2]. Moreover, the updated Catalogue of Confidence-building Measures (2021) [3] and the CICA Convention on Privileges and Immunities (2010) [4] were used to analyze the evolution of the development of CICA activities and approaches. The Declarations of all six Summits were also used, namely the CICA Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations (2002) [5], the Declaration of the Second Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia (2006) [6], the Declaration of the Third Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia “Building a cooperative approach to interaction and Security in Asia” (2010) [7], Declaration of the Fifth Summit of Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (2019) [8], Astana Statement on the Transformation of the CICA (2022) [9].

The role and evolution of CICA in the context of ensuring security in the Asian region were also widely studied in the works of Kazakhstani researchers, namely in the work of Z. Asanov “Evolution of CICA” (2007) [10], K.N. Makasheva in the work “The role of CICA in ensuring regional security” (2022) [11] and Z.M. Kadekova in the work “Institutionalization of CICA: Prospects of Transformation in Asia” (2023) [12], as well as in the work “Catalog of Confidence Building Measures of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)” by the Russian researcher Lazutin L.A. (2010) [13]. From the point of view of the theoretical and conceptual framework, the concept of confidence measures is studied in detail in the works of Eastern researchers Yang Yongming and Tang Xinwei, “Confidence-building measures and security in the Asia-Pacific region” (1999) [14] and Xiao Chaoqing, in the work “Confidence-building measures on both sides of the Strait” (2009) [15].

Secondly, the beginning and evolution of the development of SCO activities and approaches, on the other hand, have been analyzed in accordance with the legal documents of the SCO organizations, such as the Shanghai Convention against Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism (2001) [16], Charter of the SCO (2002 and amended in 2006) [17], the Declaration of the Heads of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States (2002) [18], the New Delhi Declaration of the SCO (2023) [19], etc. Also, the SCO approaches in the context of ensuring Asian security were studied in the work of Baizakova K.I. in “The Role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Countering Threats and Challenges to Regional Security in Central Asia” [20], Voronovich V.V. in the work “The Evolution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the Era of Asian Security System Formation” [21], Pan Guang in the work “The SCO's Success in Security Architecture” [22], etc.

However, in the works of the above-mentioned researchers, the comparative aspect of the activities and approaches of the CICA and the SCO in the context of ensuring Asian security in modern geopolitical conditions has not been studied in detail, so this topic still remains quite relevant.

## **Research methods**

CICA is a regional international forum which purpose is to consolidate the partnership of the countries of Asia and Eurasia in the framework of ensuring security and stability in the region on the consensus of confidence-building measures and multilateral approaches to peace and cooperation. In terms of conceptual approach, CICA is based on the ideas of “security through cooperation” and “confidence building” among the participating countries [23]. That is, the CICA approach aims to reduce misunderstandings, potential challenges and risks in the context of Asian security.

The SCO, in turn, is a regional organization founded in June 2001 by the leaders of Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and is a platform for partnership among member countries in such aspects as ensuring security and stability, political, cultural, economic aspects, etc. and is considered as an instrument of regional integration. That is, the conceptual approach of this organization is aimed at the ideas of “multilateral cooperation” [24].

As for the definition of Asian security, in general, it is the state and issues of maintaining overall security, stability and sustainability through the development of partnership between countries in the Asian region. Ensuring security in the region is significant due to potential risks, challenges, and threats of various types: military-political, environmental, demographic, socio-economic, etc. The importance of ensuring Asian security becomes more relevant due to the growing new types of threats, the so-called non-traditional security threats, such as transnational threats, religious extremism, terrorism, environmental crimes, smuggling of weapons of mass proliferation, etc.

Asian security is closely correlated with the concept of “comprehensive security”, which considers security not only from a traditional point of view, but also as a political, cultural, social, trade, economic, demographic, environmental and information security in its entirety [25].

Certainly, it can be said that both structures define themselves as partnership mechanisms of the countries, implementing the issues of ensuring security and stability, promoting the improvement of trade and economic partnership, as well as the development of cultural cooperation in the Asian region. Although the CICA and SCO structures are regional, the two structures can nevertheless be viewed from the perspective of the interregional dimension as well. This is manifested through the partnership of these organizations with other regional structures, such as the CSTO and the OSCE, as well as the activities of the structures based on the approaches of universal international organizations such as the UN.

**Methodological basis.** In the presented article, the posed research problem is studied using a comparative analysis of the regulatory framework of two regional structures for ensuring Asian security. A comparative analysis allows us to identify differences and similarities between the CICA and SCO approaches to ensuring Asian security through the consideration of normative documents and official statements.

Historical method, spatial analysis and other research methods are also used to achieve research goals. The historical method can be used by the authors of the article in order to identify the beginning of the creation of the regional structures of the CICA and the SCO, as well

as to trace the dynamics of development and evolution of the organization's data. Moreover, the historical method helps to identify the main factors that influenced the initial creation of these structures and the subsequent dynamics of their development within the framework of Asian security. Also, using this method, the authors have the opportunity to study certain events within the framework of the activities of these regional organizations.

The method of spatial analysis, in turn, allows us to identify the geographical scale of coverage of the CICA and SCO structures. Using this method, the authors of the article will be able to determine the activities of regional structures on an Asian scale, as well as identify spatial connections between the participating countries. Moreover, using this method, the scale of potential security threats and challenges can be analyzed.

The theoretical basis for the study of Asian security within the framework of the regional structures of the CICA and the SCO are the main theories and concepts in the field of security, such as "theory of regional security complexes", "dependency theory", "confidence-building measures" and their practical implementation in the activities of the CICA and the SCO.

In the initial period of the formation of the CICA as a Conference and the SCO as an organization, it was determined at the theoretical level that disputes and conflicts that took place in the region should not become some kind of obstacle for the countries of the Asian region in developing common approaches and steps to the problems of regional security and interaction. The most appropriate criterion for determining regionality in the case of studying the CICA and the SCO as a tool for ensuring security in the Asian region is security or security problems in general. These concepts are based on the idea of regional security complexes, defined as "regions viewed through the prism of security." Based on the functional definition of the theoretical basis, the region allows us to qualify Asian countries as a regional security complex as well.

First of all, the issues of military Asian security can be studied in the context of the theory of the regional security complex. In general, the theory of regional security complexes, due to the degree of study of several types, criteria and examples of regional complexes by such scientists as Barry Buzan and Ole Weaver, can be considered as the most effective mechanism for analyzing the dynamics and trends of security at the regional level. At the initial level, the definition of the theory of the regional security complex was defined as follows: "as a group of states whose main security problems are so closely linked that the national security of each of them cannot reasonably be considered separately" [26]. Based on this definition, it can be noted that challenges and threats at the national level are significant and important at the regional level, and any regional security complex is essentially a kind of "substructure of the international system". It can also be added that the security levels are interconnected both at the regional and global levels, therefore, according to this criterion, it is necessary to solve security issues at the regional level with an integrated approach and in a unified format.

In the context of the theory of the regional security complex, the components of the military security of the Asian region, namely its structure, development and mutually suitable functions, are formed and developed by the interaction of dynamics of four levels of securitization: inside the mini-complex states; interstate and international cooperation; cooperation of the mini-complex with neighboring regions; the importance of the world's leading structures in the mini-complex, which implies the cooperation of world structures with regional structures [26].

Despite the fact that the issue of geopolitics in the general context of Asian security is widely studied in foreign sources of literature, however, it is in the context of regional structures of CICA and SCO that the geopolitical approach of the leading countries to security in the Asian region is little studied and little applied in research. Within the framework of geopolitics theory, the issue of studying the interests and geopolitical strategies of the leading states participating in the CICA and SCO structures is first of all raised. Moreover, on the one hand, in the context of this approach, the topics of analyzing geopolitical situations and factors influencing the activities of CICA and SCO are well disclosed. On the other hand, the authors of the article also provide some assessments of the impact of these regional structures on geopolitical situations and tensions in Asia.

Furthermore, the theory of dependence considers the uneven economic development of countries, clearly dividing the world-system into a “core-periphery”, where the core is the industrial states, and the periphery is the third world countries subordinate to the leading industrial world. According to this theory, the leading countries create a so-called “center”, and a periphery is formed around this center, that is, dependent countries that provide the leading countries with basic resources and provide them with labor [27].

Within the framework of security in Asia, dependency theory helps to determine the political and economic role of the leading industrial states in the security picture of the Asian region. Moreover, the theory of dependence will allow us to analyze the methods and strategies of the leading Asian states that could exert influence politically and economically for their primary interests. These interests stem from two factors: the first is to promote its role and position in the region, and the second is to counteract the desire for independence of third countries of the world.

The concept of confidence-building measures, in turn, is also the very conceptual tool that seeks to maximize the prevention of local and regional conflicts by completely avoiding misunderstandings and any vague prospects for diplomacy between countries [14]. The purpose of this theory is to provide mechanisms for information transparency of military activities, which can help countries avoid potential military clashes.

On the background of ensuring Asian security and stability, the theory of confidence-building measures can most likely be used within the framework of the CICA as a basic component in ensuring stability and security, as well as its correct and transparent assessment. The key goals and functional tasks of interaction in various directions within the framework of the CICA are referred to as confidence-building measures. This approach is enshrined in the document entitled “CICA Confidence-building Measures Catalog” of 2004 (updated in 2021), which approved the measurement of the interaction of member States at the regulatory level [3]. This document is essentially unique in the history of multilateral diplomacy on the Asian continent. In order to properly regulate the process of implementing confidence- building measures in the CICA member countries, the coordinating countries and co- coordinators of measurements and direction have been identified. To be more precise, Azerbaijan is the coordinator in the implementation of confidence-building measures in the CICA in the field of transport, the Republic of Korea is the coordinator in the energy sector, and the Russian Federation is in the field of entrepreneurship; Kazakhstan is coordinator in the social (“human dimension”) and

military-political spheres, the Republic of Korea is coordinator in the field of information technology, Tajikistan is coordinator in the field of tourism, Iran is coordinator in the field of disaster management and combating drug trafficking, Mongolia is in the field of ecology, Turkey is coordinator in the sphere of new threats and challenges. As part of monitoring the implementation of confidence-building measures in the CICA, the participating countries support the approach of voluntary and phased implementation, which in turn ensures and guarantees an inclusive and non-discriminatory principle of decision-making within the framework of the structure.

The issues and aspects discussed in this article have also been deeply studied using classical Western theories such as realism and liberalism. From the standpoint of realism, the position of the leading Asian states in ensuring security should be considered, first of all, through their national interests, which are influenced by such geopolitical, geo-economic, historical, geographical, political and cultural factors. The liberal approach, on the contrary, is associated with the propensity and desire of Asian states to partner within regional structures such as the CICA and the SCO to achieve joint goals and objectives in ensuring security and stability.

Thus, with the help of various theories and concepts, it is possible to identify the main aspects of Asian security and the basic approaches of such regional structures as the CICA and the SCO in ensuring it.

## **Discussion and results**

*Historical review.* In the context of historical intensity, Kazakhstan, being a country with a multi-vector and multilateral foreign policy, put forward and further advanced a number of initiatives at the regional and international level, which were focused on maintaining peace, security and stability. Undoubtedly, the call of the Republic of Kazakhstan to convene the CICA has become one of such significant initiatives.

The idea of the need to create a CICA was firstly presented by N. Nazarbayev at the 47th session of the UN General Assembly in October 1992. It is essential to mention that at the time of the convening of the Conference, the head of Kazakhstan noted that such an initiative as a whole is directed to the desire to resume previously unsuccessful attempts to create a practical and effective structure for ensuring Asian security and stability.

In the 1990s, after the convocation itself, the diplomats of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in leadership with the Minister of Foreign Affairs Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, established the approaches and the entire basis for the realization and implementation of the initiative of President Nursultan Nazarbayev. As a result, two documents can be identified that laid the foundation and became a significant step towards the future evolution of the Conference: the Declaration of Principles Governing Relations between CICA member states [1], adopted at the first Meeting of Foreign Ministers on September 14, 1999 in Almaty, and the Almaty Act [2], the CICA Charter, adopted at the first Summit June 4, 2002 in Almaty. In general, based on these documents, on the way of its formation and widespread development of the CICA, several evolutionary stages have passed, which is now acquiring a new character in its path of elaboration.

At the moment, the Conference unites 28 states of the region, and has great potential in ensuring Asian security and stability. The CICA seems to be the most important platform for the Republic of Kazakhstan, allowing it to actively promote its peaceful and constructive foreign policy agenda.

As for the history of the creation and evolution of the SCO as a separate organization, the conclusion of an Agreement on confidence-building in the military field in the border area on April 26, 1996 within the framework of the Shanghai meeting of the heads of the countries of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Russia and China was the beginning of the commonwealth of the SCO member states. It should be noted that this was the first Agreement on the scale of ensuring military and political security in the Asia-Pacific region.

On June 15, 2001, already at the second Shanghai meeting, the scale of cooperation was already much expanded with the formation of a regional forum and the adoption of the Declaration on the Establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) [18], focused on regional partnership in the economic and security sectors, which covers aspects of the fight against terrorism, extremism and radicalism, as well political, social, cultural and humanitarian aspects.

The primary goals and objectives of the organization were predetermined and formulated in the Charter of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, adopted in 2002. They included “strengthening mutual trust, friendship and good-neighborliness between the member states; developing multidisciplinary cooperation in order to maintain and strengthen peace, security and stability in the region, and contributing to the construction of a new democratic, just and rational political and economic international order; joint counteraction to terrorism, separatism and extremism in all their manifestations, the fight against illicit trafficking in drugs and weapons, other types of transnational criminal activity, as well as illegal migration” [17].

The SCO, as well as other successful regional organizations, enriches and increases its influence over time, being an instrument between countries such as China, Russia and a number of Central Asian countries. Kazakhstan's role in this organization is also significant, since it was with its representation in the SCO that the anniversary of this regional structure coincided.

Undoubtedly, the formation and unique evolution of the SCO platform is an example, as well as the CICA in ensuring comprehensive Asian security and the development of trade and economic cooperation.

*Security factors in Asia.* Studying the activities of the regional structures of the CICA and the SCO in the context of ensuring Asian security and stability, it is necessary to emphasize the disputes and conflicts of the participating countries within the framework of the CICA and the SCO. Some of these conflicts originate back in the XX century and are developing to this day, changing their forms, while others are completely new due to the emergence of non-traditional types of international threats. Such an emphasis helps to identify the evolution of the activities of regional structures and determine how conflicts and challenges affect the process of regulation and transformation of the organization.

The key prerequisites for the conflicts of the CICA and SCO member states may be the desire of the leading Asian states to become a leader in the region, which is closely intertwined with economic aspirations, as well as ideological contradictions, demarcation disputes, etc.



The main conflicts cover the problem of China and Taiwan, the problems of Afghanistan, the conflict between North and South Korea, relations between India and Pakistan, the outcome of the Vietnam war and so on. As we can see, all these disputes, one way or another, relate to the period of the second half of the XX century.

Indeed, the factors of manifestation of these Asian conflicts may be diverse, but, nevertheless, they can be partitioned into several basic types according to the number of factors in contact:

1. The basis of the clashes is one factor, for example, only political [28]. An example of such a conflict would be the Indo-Pakistani dispute over the ownership of Kashmir. This factor entails several important consequences that could undermine security in the region: escalation of tensions and contradictions both between the two nuclear countries and the accession of other nuclear countries to this tension; and an increase in military activities and operations between the two countries.

2. The basis of the contradictions is caused by two factors, for instance, political and territorial [28]. Security issues in the South China Sea may be a prime example of such a conflict with two factors. From a political point of view, disputes in the South China Sea may include issues of objects (archipelagos, islands, reefs, shoals) of territorial claims of China and countries to the southeast of China, such as the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, etc.; and also issues of China's leadership as an active military player in the regional arena, which, of course, leads to geopolitical competition between China and other military powers such as the United States. If we look specifically from a territorial point of view, we need to highlight issues of uncertainty regarding the position of objects of territorial claims between China and the countries of Southeast Asia, as well as the economic component of interests that are closely related to the main maritime sources and resources in the region. Even though the factors are different, however, they are closely interrelated and generate conflicts.

3. The basis of the contradictions, mainly geopolitical, are caused by three factors – unresolved territorial and ethnic factors, as well as political ones [28]. Security issues in the Caucasus can be a prime example of such a conflict with three factors. From a territorial point of view, conflicts in the Caucasus may cover issues of the international legal status of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which subsequently led to ethnic differences between Georgians and Ossetians. In a political sense, this conflict is also urgent in the context of political competition between regional powers such as Iran, Turkey, Russia, etc.

4. The causes of conflicts include all the above-mentioned factors that are not regulated and are not resolved for a long period of time [28]. An example of such a conflict could be the conflicts in Middle East. However, it is necessary to take into account that it is difficult to list such conflicts that include all the factors listed above and that are correlated precisely within the regional structures of the CICA and the SCO.

Summarizing the above, we can safely say that there are plenty of unresolved disagreements and conflicts within the SCO and CICA. In their settlement and in fully ensuring Asian security and stability, in these times the role and approaches of such regional structures as the CICA in the format of the Conference so far and the SCO in the format of a full-fledged organization are substantial.

*Approaches of CICA in the context of Asian security.* The CICA, initiated by Kazakhstan, is a platform for maintaining Asian security and stability, based on the concept of confidence-

building measures between countries, which means cooperation whose interests are satisfactory and appropriate for all parties. Confidence-building measures are aimed at preventing misunderstandings between the parties. In the context of conflict situations in the Asian region, this is manifested, first of all, by a compromise resolution of disagreements, as far as it is permissible. Moreover, this concept is correlated with the mutual willingness of the parties to the conflict to hold negotiations, at which it is possible to exchange the terms of conflict resolution and further potential cooperation. Thirdly, the concept is aimed at transparent control and monitoring of compliance with the agreement of the parties to resolve the conflict situation.

In accordance with the Almaty Act of 2002, the main goal and direction of the CICA is to strengthen cooperation through the development of multilateral approaches to ensuring peace, security, and stability in Asia. [2].

As part of the study of the functioning and activities of the CICA, it is also necessary to highlight the structure and institutional basis of the organization:

- Meetings of heads of state and government, foreign ministers, a committee of senior officials, special working groups aimed at conducting consultations, a comprehensive review of the functioning of the regional structure, and identifying priority areas for development;
- Conducting scientific and professional research within the CICA;
- Secretariat, which provides administrative support for regular meetings [2].

In this context, the role and importance of the CICA Summits is extremely important when studying the aspect of ensuring Asian security and stability. The activities of the CICA are successfully implemented with the support and holding of Summits at the regional and international levels to conduct consultations, review the progress of activities and identify further priorities and advantages of the structure. To date, six CICA summits have been held in 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, 2019 and 2022, as a result of which a number of Asian countries joined the membership and important conceptual documents of the structure were adopted, such as the Almaty Act, the CICA Charter, the Catalog of Confidence-building Measures, the CICA Rules of Procedure, which, in turn determined the key principles and directions of the structure.

For instance, at the very first CICA Summit in 2002, at the initiative of Kazakhstan, the topic of the acute protracted confrontation between India and Pakistan was on the agenda [12]. The President of Kazakhstan at that time, Nursultan Nazarbayev, called on the heads of India and Pakistan to refrain from any conflict in the Asian region. By the way, this conflict at that time could have turned into a nuclear war, and voicing this kind of issue at the very first CICA Summit in Almaty showed the seriousness of the Conference.

Moreover, in the Declaration of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CICA in 2004, the concerns of the participating countries of the Conference on topical and acute issues and conflicts in the Middle East were vividly emphasized. Namely, within the framework of the Conference, the issues of reconstruction of Afghanistan, Iraq and the Arab-Israeli conflict were on the agenda [5].

However, the consideration of the scope of security within the framework of the CICA was not limited only to the regional framework. The final Declaration of the CICA Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of 2008 clearly emphasizes the concept of the solidity of global security, which

meant the unity and integrity of security not only in the regional context, but also on a global scale. The influence of international terrorism and radicalism have been at the forefront of threats to global security as an unconventional threat to international security. On the one hand, the consideration of global security within the framework of the CICA shows the significant role of the structure, but on the other hand, it may be an obstacle to the effectiveness of conflict resolution on a narrower scale in the context of Asia.

The CICA member countries also drew attention and expressed concern about economic security. At the 2010 CICA Summit in Istanbul, the issues of negative outcomes and results of the global financial and economic crisis of 2008 in the Asian economic market were on the agenda. Moreover, such issues of non-traditional threats to security in Asia as infectious diseases, HIV/AIDS, epidemics, and pandemics were raised at the Third Summit [7].

Moreover, the expressions of concern and the emphasis on the issues of “terrorism, radicalism, extremism, disarmament, drug trafficking, organized and transnational crime, food and energy security, human rights, information and communication technologies, environmental protection” at the CICA Summits in 2012, 2014 and 2016 clearly reflected the role and future prospects of the CICA. In particular, the position on the fight against international terrorism within the CICA was based on preventive and precautionary actions.

In the context of the Central Asian region, the CICA member countries, as a result of the 2012 Summit, welcomed the nuclear-free status of Central Asia. The conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh between Armenia and Azerbaijan was also on the agenda at the 2014 CICA Summit.

At the sixth, extreme CICA Summit, which was held on October 13, 2022 in Astana, important issues on the phased transformation of the CICA into a full-fledged international organization were voiced by the President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Of course, this transformation process will further strengthen and consolidate the institutionalization of the partnership of the participating countries within the framework of the structure, as a result of which the dialogue platform will receive a new special status in the global political arena. It should be borne in mind that the scale of the CICA is growing every time. At the last Summit, this was manifested with the accession of Kuwait as the 28th member of the Meeting, as well as with the partnership of the CICA with the Eurasian Economic Commission, which has already become the sixth CICA partner organization [9].

If we talk about the future prospects of the CICA, the following initiatives of the Kazakh representative office can be noted:

- creation of the CICA Fund as a tool to finance support for regional initiatives to ensure food and socio-humanitarian security;
- joint Statement of the participating countries of the Conference on Strengthening Cooperation and Partnership in ensuring information security, with the development of the use of information and communication technologies;
- commitment to the activities of the Conference on the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;
- special emphasis on ensuring environmental safety in Asia is the holding of a conference on Asian environmental issues in 2024 [9].

Definitely, all these measures and aspirations are aimed at further transforming the CICA into a full-fledged international organization, that is, towards full institutionalization led by the initiative of Kazakhstan.

Approaches of the SCO in the context of Asian security. The SCO, in turn, can also be considered as a separate regional security structure aimed at increasing the areas of partnership between countries. The areas of cooperation between the participating countries include ensuring military and political security, but are not limited to these areas only. Economic cooperation within the framework of the SCO structure is also significant. These aspects of security are intertwined with each other and they interconnectedly create an overall picture of security in Central Asia. Nevertheless, it is important to consider each of them separately. The military-political partnership is directly related to ensuring military regional security and is based on strengthening openness, trust and training between the member countries of the organization within the framework of normative legal documents, such as the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministries of Defense of the two countries in 1995. The main aspects of military-political cooperation are international terrorism, socio-political radicalism and ethnic separatism [20].

In accordance with Art. 1 of the SCO Charter of June 7, 2002, the main goals and objectives of the organization include the following: strengthening mutual trust, friendship and good neighborliness between member states; development of multidisciplinary cooperation in order to maintain and strengthen peace, security and stability in the region; joint counteraction to terrorism, separatism and extremism in all their manifestations, the fight against illegal drug and weapons trafficking, other types of transnational criminal activities, as well as illegal migration, etc [17].

Structures and institutional basis of the organization:

- Council of Heads of State and Government, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, national coordinators, aimed at holding consultations, a comprehensive review of the functioning of the regional structure, identifying priority areas for development;
- Meetings of heads of ministries and/or departments;
- Regional anti-terrorist structure;
- Secretariat providing administrative support for regular meetings [17].

In the context of institutionalization, in comparison with the CICA, it can be noted that the SCO is a more formalized structure with the main statutory bodies.

The economic partnership within the SCO, in turn, is aimed at developing trade and economic cooperation within the framework of the mechanisms of meetings of Ministers of Economy and Trade and Ministers of Communications, encouraging the development of economic projects in the region through investment instruments, as well as contributing to the development of energy security dynamics within the framework of the SCO Energy Club.

With an emphasis on military-political cooperation, it is important to highlight the aspect of combating international terrorism and extremism in the context of ensuring security and stability within the framework of the SCO structure. This aspect has become critically important for the SCO member states after major terrorist and extremist events in the global geopolitical arena in various regions of the world. Based on this factor, in 2002, at an extraordinary meeting

of the SCO foreign Ministers, which was held in the capital of China, a joint statement was made between the participating countries on the basic foundations of the fight against international terrorism and possible prospects for the spread of this non-traditional threat. Also, this statement highlighted the approaches of the SCO member states in resolving the problems of the post-conflict political settlement of Afghanistan. In general, studying the role of the SCO structure's activities and approaches in the above-mentioned issues is extremely important in assessing the provision of this structure of security and stability in the Asian region [21].

It should be mentioned that if the issues of combating terrorism within the CICA are considered from the point of view of preventive measures, the SCO places the main emphasis on the use of tougher force and psychological methods of influence. That is, within the framework of the SCO, collective military training, work to identify cross-border crime, and data exchange are often carried out. However, it is also necessary to take into account that both the CICA and the SCO put issues of combating terrorism on the agenda, highlighting it as one of the important threats to international security and even considering cooperation in this matter.

Moreover, the areas of cooperation between the SCO member states include new non-traditional types of threats to international security, such as drug trafficking, transnational illegal arms trafficking, illegal migration, which stems from the problems of terrorism, and transnational organizational crime.

Drug trafficking, in particular, is a critically important threat in ensuring regional security and stability, and several factors contribute to this. Firstly, mainly young people aged 17-26 years become the main drug users. This aspect of the international threat is interconnected with the social and political spheres of society, leading to the danger of criminalization and marginalization of the whole society. Secondly, drug trafficking, considered as a separate business sector, negatively affects the development of the economies of the SCO member states, redirecting allocated funds for production to an illegal type of business. In particular, the spread of "heavy" narcotic drugs from Afghanistan and Tajikistan through the SCO member states such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan to Russia or to European countries further worsens and complicates the problems of illegal drug trafficking on the scale of the Asian region. All these factors certainly show the importance of collective struggle against all threats to international security [21].

Regarding the prospects of the SCO's activities in the context of ensuring Asian security, the potential and capabilities of the organization for partnership in combating threats in the military, political and economic spheres between the SCO member states can be vividly noted. In particular, the military-political cooperation of the SCO member states seems promising and hopeful, since in the near future the members of the organization intend to create peacekeeping forces units in order to reduce dependence on external actors. Promising projects are also an economic priority, but a limited budget within the SCO may slow down the development of the organization's economic initiatives. In this regard, it probably makes sense in the near future to take up the idea of creating an SCO investment Fund, similar to the CICA plan.

As for the main obstacles and barriers that the SCO structure faces in ensuring security in Asia, the first is the economic and financial asymmetry between the countries, which can include economic, monetary, infrastructural inequality of the participating countries; the increase in traditional and non-traditional security threats within the Asian region. Secondly, the difference

in the interests of the leading SCO countries, in particular, the emphasis of China on the economic aspect and Russia on the military-political aspect, is also one of the main barriers to the development of the SCO structure and may lead to potential contradictions between the participating countries within the bloc. Moreover, the lack of a single unique approach to the inclusion of new countries in the organization also affects the decision-making process and system.

In general, to summarize, we can say that the positions of both the CICA and the SCO in the context of ensuring security and stability in the Asian region are not mutually exclusive. Both regional structures are important in turn. However, within the framework of institutionalization and mechanisms of activity, there are differences. Moreover, in the military-political component of ensuring security, if the CICA approaches are based on the theory of confidence-building measures and are often even limited by this, then the SCO here is distinguished by its practicality, emphasizing the issues of forceful collective military training and data exchange. In economic terms, CICA is just developing this component of ensuring security, with an emphasis on creating Funds, and in the SCO, as we know, this direction has been the most important since the founding of the organization.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the analysis conducted in the article, the authors came to the following conclusions.

In a detailed study of the activities and approaches of the CICA and SCO regional structures in the context of Asian security, the consideration of security factors in the Asian region are essential. Local and regional conflicts in Asia, such as problem of China and Taiwan, the problems of Afghanistan, the conflict between North and South Korea, relations between India and Pakistan, the outcome of the Vietnam war, and etc., play a significant role in determining the activities and approaches of regional structures such as the CICA and the SCO in ensuring regional security and stability. Comparing the approaches of these two structures in the context of ensuring Asian security, stability and sustainability, it is possible to identify common features and a number of differences within the framework of criteria.

The first criterion for the scale of coverage of structures. The CICA includes 28 participating countries, while the SCO has a more limited geographical coverage, including 8 participating countries.

The second criterion is the goals and approaches, as well as the provisions of the two regional structures. It is safe to say that both structures have generally identical goals and objectives in the partnership of the participating countries, however, undoubtedly, the approaches and norms used in solving basic security issues may vary widely. The CICA aims to strengthen confidence and security measures between the participating countries in preventing possible conflicts and ensuring security in the Asian region, while the SCO promotes partnership in such areas as military-political, economic, and cultural in the Central Asian region. Moreover, there are similar provisions in the 2004 CICA Catalogue of Confidence-building Measures with the 2001 Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism.

The third criterion is based on the type of organization structure. The CICA is not yet a full-fledged international organization, but a forum for dialogue and consultations on Asian security

issues, and the SCO is a full-fledged organization with its own charter and executive bodies. The activities of the CICA in the format of the Meeting so far have a narrow form, which is aimed at strengthening confidence-building measures between the participating countries by ensuring security. The SCO, being a full-fledged international organization, has more remarkable achievements in this regard. These successes are promising in the partnership of the participating countries in such aspects as economic, investment, energy, etc.

The fourth criterion is a comparison of the cooperation mechanism within the regional structures of the CICA and the SCO. Within the CICA, decision-making is carried out based on consensus and the organization itself has a less formalized structure. Identification of priority areas of cooperation and overall joint work within the CICA is carried out through meetings of heads of state, foreign ministers, committees of senior officials, special working groups, etc. And the SCO, in turn, is a more formalized structure with the main statutory bodies

Thus, it can be concluded that the goals of both regional structures are similar, however, according to the criteria of geographical scope, the number of participating countries and the activities of the CICA and SCO structures, of course, have differences.

The format of the CICA structure still remains at the level of a universal forum, but with a broader geographical coverage and consideration of a comprehensive range of issues. Of course, in the perspective, there is a huge opportunity for the CICA to become a full-fledged international organization, but this is hampered by a number of issues regarding its status, structure and competence. And the SCO, as it was already mentioned, is a full-fledged international organization specializing mainly in issues of maintaining security and stability in the context of the Central Asian region.

In general, the CICA and the SCO can be considered as complementary to each other. This is especially evident in the deepening of the partnership between the CICA and the SCO, which is aimed at ensuring security in the Asian region.

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### **Contribution of the authors.**

**L.M. Nurdavletova** – correspondence author, work with literature, collection and analysis of material, design of a scientific article.

**O.A. Baisalbek, F.T. Kukeyeva** – definition of goals and objectives of a scientific article, work using research materials and methods, generalization and analysis of theoretical material.

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### **Азиядағы қауіпсіздікті қамтамасыз етудегі АӨСШК мен ШЫҰ ынтымақтастығы перспективаларын талдау**

**Аңдатпа.** Бұл мақалада Азиядағы өзара іс-қимыл және сенім шаралары кеңесі (АӨСШК) және Шанхай ынтымақтастық ұйымы (ШЫҰ) құрылымдарының Азия аймағындағы қауіпсіздік пен тұрақтылықты қамтамасыз ету контекстіндегі рөлі мен маңызы қарастырылады. Бұл мақаланың авторлары халықаралық қатынастардың реализм және либерализм сияқты классикалық теорияларын да, аймақтық қауіпсіздіктің кешенді теориясы, тәуелділік теориясы, геосаясат және сенім шаралары тұжырымдамасы сияқты теорияларды да пайдаланды.

Мақалада нормативтік-құқықтық құжаттар негізінде екі құрылымға жеке-жеке салыстырмалы талдау жасалып, олардың қызметінің тиімділігі, сондай-ақ азиялық қауіпсіздікке қатер төндіретін сын-қатерлер контекстіндегі проблемалық аспектілері мен перспективалары көрсетілген. Мақалада алдымен АӨСШК және ШЫҰ ұйымдарының даму эволюциясының тарихи шолуы берілген, содан кейін олардың азиялық қауіпсіздік факторлары контекстіндегі қызметінің тәсілдері дербес көрсетілген. Азиялық қауіпсіздікті және тұрақтылықты қамтамасыз ету контекстіндегі осы екі құрылымның тәсілдерін салыстыра отырып, авторлар белгілі бір критерийлер аясында ортақ белгілер мен бірқатар айырмашылықтарды анықтады. Қойылған мақсатқа жету үшін авторлар салыстырмалы және тарихи әдістерді, сонымен қатар кеңістікті талдау әдісін пайдаланды. Авторлар қазақстандық және шетелдік зерттеушілердің бірқатар жұмыстарын талдаған.

**Түйін сөздер:** АӨСШК, ШЫҰ, азиялық қауіпсіздік, халықаралық терроризм, сенім шаралары, Қазақстанның бастамалары, заманауи геосаясат.

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### **Анализ перспектив сотрудничества СВМДА и ШОС в обеспечении азиатской безопасности**

**Аннотация.** В данной статье рассматриваются роль и значение региональных структур Совещания по взаимодействию и мерам доверия в Азии (СВМДА) и Шанхайской организации

сотрудничества (ШОС) в контексте обеспечения безопасности и стабильности в азиатском регионе. Авторами данной статьи использованы как классические теории международных отношений, такие как реализм и либерализм, так и такие теории, как комплексная теория региональной безопасности, теория зависимости, геополитическая теория и концепция мер доверия.

В статье дан сравнительный анализ подходов двух структур по отдельности на основе нормативных документов, выделены эффективность их деятельности, а также проблемные аспекты и перспективы в контексте вызовов, угрожающих азиатской безопасности. В статье сначала дается исторический обзор эволюции развития организаций СВМДА и ШОС, затем по-отдельности иллюстрируются их подходы в контексте азиатских факторов безопасности. Сравнивая подходы этих двух структур в контексте обеспечения азиатской безопасности, стабильности и устойчивости, в статье выявлены общие черты и ряд различий в рамках определенных критериев. Для достижения цели авторами использованы сравнительный и исторический методы, а также метод пространственного анализа. Авторами проанализированы ряд работ как казахстанских, так и зарубежных исследователей.

**Ключевые слова:** СВМДА, ШОС, азиатская безопасность, международный терроризм, меры доверия, инициативы Казахстана, современная геополитика.

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