



Commitment to Road Safety in CAREC Ten Actions to Make CAREC Corridors Safer

[Endorsed by the CAREC Ministerial Conference]

The 14th Ministerial Conference on Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC), represented by the governments of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, People's Republic of China (PRC), Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan,

in full support of the UN Decade of Action's target to reduce the number of fatalities on roads by 2020, and ahead of the Second Global High-Level Conference on Road Safety in Brasilia, marking the mid-year of the Decade,

cognizant that strong political commitment at national and regional level is a prerequisite for improvements in road safety,

calling on the international community, including donors and international agencies to continue and enhance their support towards delivering road safety solutions in the region,

endorsed the following joint commitment in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia on 25th September 2015:

1. **Recognizing the road safety challenge in the region** – The numbers of persons killed or injured in road collisions remains unacceptably high, with over 60,000 deaths and 600,000 injuries occurring annually in the CAREC region alone, many of whom are vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists. This causes adverse social consequences and generates large economic losses. The causes of road deaths and injuries are both predictable and preventable, and actions taken to improve road safety are affordable and have high rates of return.

2. **Tackling the challenge together as a region** – Adopting a consistent approach towards road safety can benefit all CAREC countries. CAREC countries will advocate for the 'safe systems' approach combining improvements in road design, safer vehicle design, enforcement of traffic laws, and provision of adequate post-collision care facilities. Cooperation under CAREC will allow efficiency gains from joint capacity building and knowledge sharing activities, which will increase CAREC countries' ability to identify, plan, and implement road safety interventions. The local and national efforts being taken in each country can be enhanced by adopting region-wide approaches. The CAREC partnership of 10 participating countries and six multilateral development partners provides a suitable platform from which to launch a regional road safety initiative in the region.

3. **Commitment to joint action** – Cognizant of the above, CAREC countries commit to pursue the following actions:

- i. **Data Collection.** CAREC countries will improve the quality and ensure comparability of road collision data collected and actively monitor joint progress at country and regional level;
- ii. **Research.** CAREC countries will support research to further improve understanding of the unique causes, circumstances and effects of road collisions in the region, in order to develop appropriately targeted interventions;
- iii. **Capacity Development.** CAREC countries will undertake joint capacity development activities in road safety policy, engineering, enforcement, education, emergency response, data, and evaluation;
- iv. **Road Standards.** All future road projects on CAREC corridors will be designed with the highest road safety standards to reduce both the likelihood and severity of collisions, raise safety standards on all CAREC roads, and ensure proper provision of facilities on these roads. CAREC countries will adopt and comply with relevant international conventions relating to road safety, conduct road safety audits on all CAREC road projects, and promote good practices in road safety engineering aimed in particular at reducing the risk to vulnerable road users;
- v. **Vehicle Safety.** CAREC countries will improve vehicle safety through research and adaptation of vehicle safety measures and technology, for example seat belts and seat belt indicators, anti-lock braking systems and airbags. CAREC countries will ensure that all vehicles on roads are roadworthy, paying particular attention to those carrying dangerous goods, pursue periodic inspections for all vehicles, and ensure that all vehicles (including new, imported vehicles, and vehicles transiting), comply with minimum safety standards. Efforts will be made to increase coverage of vehicle insurance and towards mutual recognition of vehicle insurance policies across CAREC countries;
- vi. **Enforcement.** Better awareness and enforcement of road safety related traffic rules and regulations shall be promoted. This includes for example overloading, speeding, wearing of helmets and seat belts, driver work and rest times, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- vii. **Awareness and Education.** Awareness of road safety will be promoted through targeted safety advocacy activities focusing on vulnerable road users, and ensure all drivers and other road users on roads in CAREC countries are appropriately trained;
- viii. **Post-Collision Care.** CAREC countries will improve post-collision care, affording victims better chances of survival and improving long-term health outcomes;
- ix. **Partnerships.** CAREC countries will foster the development of partnerships between governments, local authorities, the private sector, and civil society to raise awareness and jointly seek to improve safety on roads; and
- x. **Regionally Shared Approach.** CAREC countries will work together to promote a common shared approach on road safety through the development of a road safety strategy for the CAREC region and implement measures contained therein.