



Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program

**Joint Ministerial Statement
11th Ministerial Conference on
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China
30 October 2012**

“Implementing CAREC 2020: Vision and Action”

Representing the Governments of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, Ministers adopted the following statement at the conclusion of the 11th Ministerial Meeting on Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) in Wuhan, People's Republic of China, on 30 October 2012.

Focusing on Implementation

1. Following endorsement of *CAREC 2020: 10-year Strategic Framework for the CAREC Program* at our 10th conference held in Baku in November 2011, our countries continued with greater vigor to pursue the strategic goals we have set for CAREC's second decade. With expanded trade and improved competitiveness as our overarching goals, we have steered our activities to become more focused, action-oriented, and results-driven. Priority regional projects and initiatives in CAREC's four areas of cooperation—transport, energy, trade facilitation, and trade policy—are making significant progress, consistent with the strategies and action plans in these sectors. Since the CAREC Program started in 2001, almost \$20 billion has been invested in CAREC-related programs and projects, and in which our CAREC governments, multilateral institution partners, and other donors have made substantial financial and technical contributions.

2. We are pleased with the progress made in CAREC's priority areas. Transport connectivity is well on track with almost half of the targeted road and rail sections of the six corridors already completed. The remaining sections will be completed during the period up to 2017. We look forward to the planned midterm review of the CAREC Transport and Trade Facilitation Strategy and Action Plan, which will revisit the alignment of the corridors. In energy, a regional power master plan for Central Asia has been completed, which will address the need to balance energy demand and supply in the region. The capacity to implement regional dispatch and regulatory systems in power trading is under development. To strengthen energy-water linkages, a common understanding has been reached on the initial need to develop the analytical tools for water management at the national and regional levels.

3. We applaud the many accomplishments made under trade facilitation over the past year, underscoring the increasing importance of the policy and regulatory dimensions of our transport and trade facilitation strategy. Successful initiatives have included improvements in border services, expansion of joint customs control between Mongolia and the People's Republic of China (PRC), capacity development for CAREC customs officials, and the identification of

regional initiatives in sanitary and phytosanitary measures. We welcome the contribution of the CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations to transport corridor development. In trade policy, accession to the World Trade Organization for a number of CAREC countries was supported by intensive capacity-building and knowledge-sharing sessions in 2012. Trade openness of the CAREC countries continued to be promoted and monitored through the development of indices to help gauge progress and performance.

Implementing CAREC 2020: The Wuhan Action Plan

4. Building on these developments, we adopt the attached *Wuhan Action Plan* to implement the operational priorities of *CAREC 2020*. The *Wuhan Action Plan* embodies the following priority actions for the next five years:

- Plan, prepare, mobilize financing for, and implement priority projects and activities in transport, energy, trade facilitation, and trade policy, as well as deliver the knowledge products and capacity development activities under the CAREC Institute.
- Establish the CAREC Institute physical base in the region by 2014 to help provide, on a continuing and sustainable basis, the analytical underpinning for strategic-, sector-, and project-related work under the CAREC Program, and associated capacity development for all CAREC bodies. We take note of the kind offer of Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of China and Kazakhstan to host the CAREC Institute Headquarters. We thank the three countries for their strong support for the CAREC Institute.
- Pursue a practical, results-oriented, and corridor-based approach to facilitate cross-border transport, which will take into account similar existing and planned arrangements in the region.

5. We are grateful for the significant contribution of our multilateral institution partners, and their continued commitment to the CAREC Program. Their support, together with that provided by our other development partners, is essential to the successful implementation of the *Wuhan Action Plan*. We highly appreciate their active participation in this Conference.

Conclusions and Acknowledgements

6. The 11th CAREC Ministerial Conference is another milestone for the CAREC Program as it further solidifies our individual and collective commitment to our shared vision of *Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects*. We are strongly committed to *CAREC 2020*, and will continue to mainstream its priority projects in our respective national development plans.

7. We thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for chairing and hosting our 11th Ministerial Conference, and our Secretariat, the Asian Development Bank, for the excellent arrangements made. We look forward to our 12th meeting to be held in 2013 in the Republic of Kazakhstan.
