

**12th CAREC Ministerial Conference
Ministerial Meeting**

Session 4:

**Views of CAREC Multilateral Institution (MI) Partners and Bilateral Donor Agencies and
Responses of CAREC Delegations**

Summary of Donor Partner Statements

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Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have had a strong participation from development partners in this CAREC Ministerial Conference and, on behalf of the CAREC Secretariat; I am pleased to highlight some of the key points raised in the comments from the CAREC development partners in this session.

The CAREC development partners, including both Multilateral Institution Partners and Bilateral Donor Agencies remain strongly committed to cooperation in the region and recognize the important role of the CAREC program. They are also engaged in a wide variety of activities and initiatives to support the development of the region, ranging from financing hard infrastructure, to the software supporting the infrastructure in terms of policies and institutional reforms, to capacity building.

Financing infrastructure:

CAREC partner International Financial Institutions are actively involved in development of physical road, energy transmission and municipal infrastructure across the CAREC, with ADB, EBRD, IsDB and World Bank providing major share of investments through both lending and grants. The Governments of Japan, UK, France and US have been providing several billions of US dollars for infrastructure projects to the governments of the region directly or through co-financing arrangements with International Financial Institutions.

Technical assistance for Trade and Transport Facilitation is an area where almost all multilateral and bilateral partners are active. Donors also indicated commitment to helping with implementation of the new areas emerging in the new Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan. For example, UNDP is engaged through the Aid for Trade program and initiatives promoting development of corridors for sustainable development. We also noted AFD's efforts to promote green and inclusive growth project activities. The representative from the US also committed to continuing support for trade partnership development, trade liberalization and customs reforms, especially towards enhancing links of Afghanistan to other CAREC member countries, while the WTO offered its support for CAREC countries in the WTO accession process, implementation of post-accession commitments, and capacity development in trade liberalization.

CAREC multilateral partners are also committed to stay with the CAREC Program Development. ADB confirmed its commitment to support the CAREC as the Secretariat. The multilateral partners reiterated their support to institutional development in the region through capacity building on issues related to the CAREC program.

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the CAREC Secretariat, let me reiterate in closing the immense importance of our development partners to the success of the CAREC. Their role in helping mobilize resources to address financing gaps in the ambitious pipeline of CAREC projects is of course critical. But equally, the CAREC member countries also look forward to your bringing in technical and knowledge resources to increase the effectiveness of regional cooperation in developing the region.