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Foundations for Strategic Direction

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Time for Strategic Direction by CAREC Countries

- Need to accelerate progress
- Move beyond project-by-project phase
- Strategic direction central theme of CAP

Building Blocks for Strategic Direction

- Shared commitment
- First class information/analysis
- Country capacity
- Collective decision-making process

Shared Commitment

- Build case for regional cooperation
- Identify win-win regional goals
- Prioritize transport, trade and energy initiatives
- Address key inter-sectoral needs (economic corridors)

Information/Analysis Requirements

- Regional initiatives based on first-rate information/analysis
- Input
 - partnership among experts
 - holistic, inter-disciplinary
- Output
 - technical reports
 - digests for decision-makers

Country Capacity

- Need for strong regional coordinating unit, with access to top-level decision makers
- Mainstreaming regional cooperation in development/public investment program
- Guidance for development partners
- Need for regular in-country workshops
- Training programs for officials in subjects/ issues critical to regional cooperation

Collective Decision-Making Process

- Strategic direction entails trade-offs and compromise
- Role of CAREC Ministerial Conference will increase in scope and importance
- Need to strengthen capacity of the SOM to tackle substantive issues/ options for consideration of Ministers
- Need for periodic regional workshops to discuss strategic direction

New Institutional Mechanisms

- Strategic Management and Priorities Subcommittee of the SOM
 - identify needs/opportunities/gaps
 - cross-cutting issues/new initiatives
 - options for Ministerial consideration

CAREC Institute

- knowledge/capacity-building pillar
- functions: research/dialogue/training

Concluding Remarks

- Strategic direction must be consistent with political direction
- Need for greater coordination with the SCO and EurAsEC
- The 5th MC as a milestone for the next stage of CAREC