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# **Looking Forward: The Comprehensive Action Plan to 2008**

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**Ministers agreed that regional cooperation must be accelerated. Accordingly, Ministers instructed Senior Officials to develop a comprehensive plan of action (to 2008), including sequencing and prioritization of regional cooperation initiatives.**

Joint Ministerial Statement, November 2004

# Interim Comprehensive Action Plan: A Work in Progress

- Addresses key impediments/challenges/opportunities
  - ❖ Difficulty of access to markets
  - ❖ Lack of understanding of benefits of regional cooperation
  - ❖ At stake: economic growth/employment/income prospects
- Summarizes CAREC action plans of MIs for transport, trade and energy
- Resource commitment to date for 2006 and 2007: approx. \$850 million
- Summarizes regional cooperation activities of other development agencies
- Suggests performance indicators for consideration

# Missing: A Strategic Framework

- Government vision statements
- Expected outputs and outcomes in medium and long-term
- Regional economic cooperation priorities re outputs/outcomes
- Sequencing of priorities
- Adoption of realistic but ambitious performance indicators
- Extensive country/regional consultation required

# Increasing the Momentum of Regional Economic Cooperation

- Forward Perspective: What should be done
- Rather than limitations under current programming
- Forward perspective calls for:
  - ❖ New initiatives, new concepts (transport strategy/economic corridors)
  - ❖ New sectors/activities
  - ❖ “Bold stokes” for accelerating regional cooperation momentum
  - ❖ Broader participation (regional organizations/private sector)

# Next Steps

- Formation of medium-term comprehensive strategic framework to 2008
  - ❖ Country/regional workshops
  - ❖ Investment/technical assistance priorities to 2008
  - ❖ Alignment of country development plans/MI action plans
  - ❖ Gap filling; resource mobilization
  - ❖ Capacity building: strengthening institutional and country capacity
- Review of progress during next SOM
- Presentation to 5th Ministerial Conference

# For More Information

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