

# **Trade Policy Strategic Action Plan Where To Go?**

CAREC Trade Policy Coordinating Committee  
Tbilisi, Georgia, 19 June 2017



# Outline

- Context: Global and regional trade policy trends
- CAREC trade policy preferences: Survey results
- Options for post-2017 trade policy agenda
- Trade policy agenda for transition year 2018

# Context: Global and Regional Trade Policy Trends

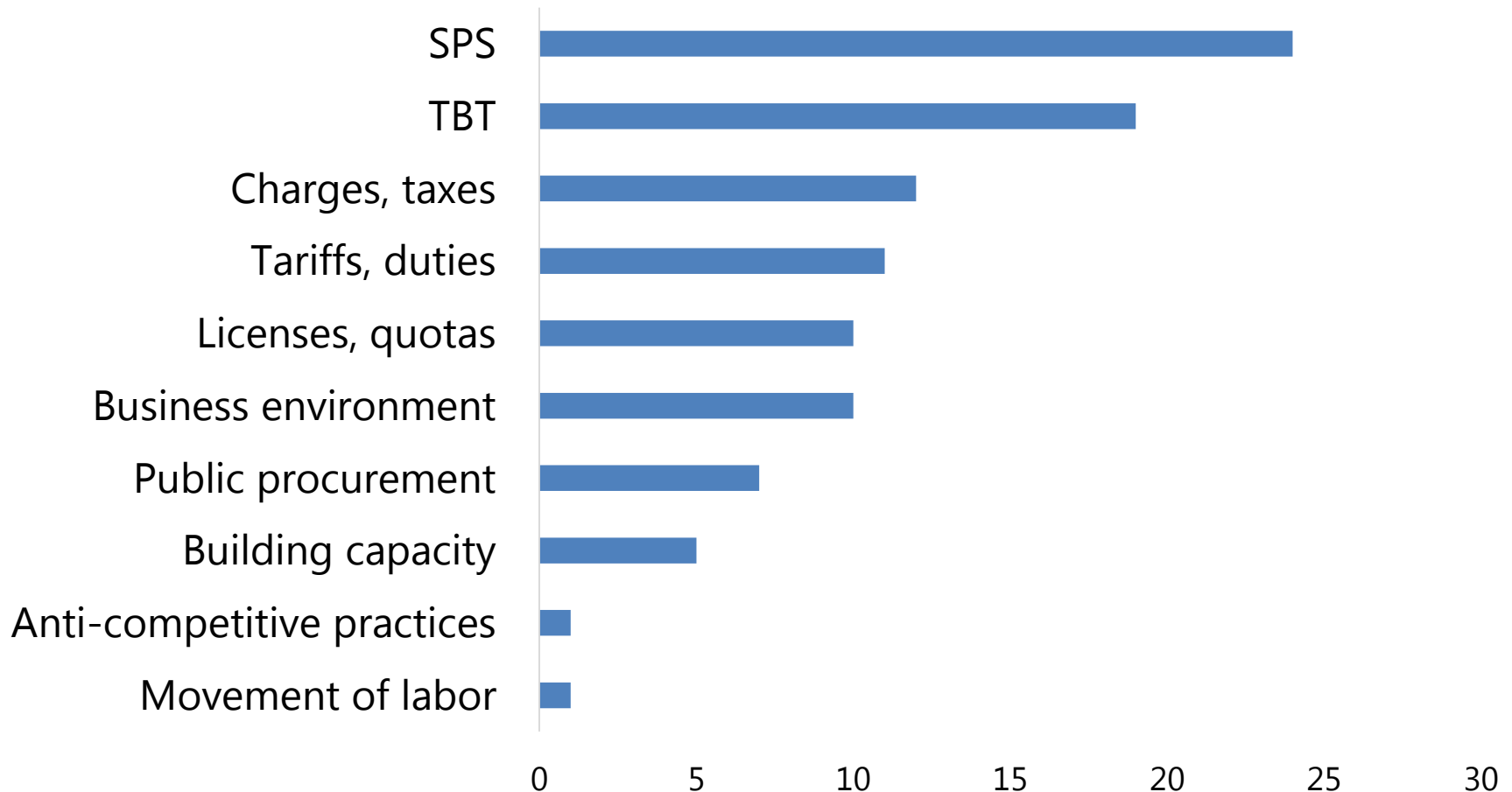
- Global and regional trade volumes have slowed sharply since 2012



- WTO focused on trade facilitation
- Rising importance of deep preferential trade agreements
- EEU evolving from a customs to an economic union

# CAREC Trade Policy Preferences

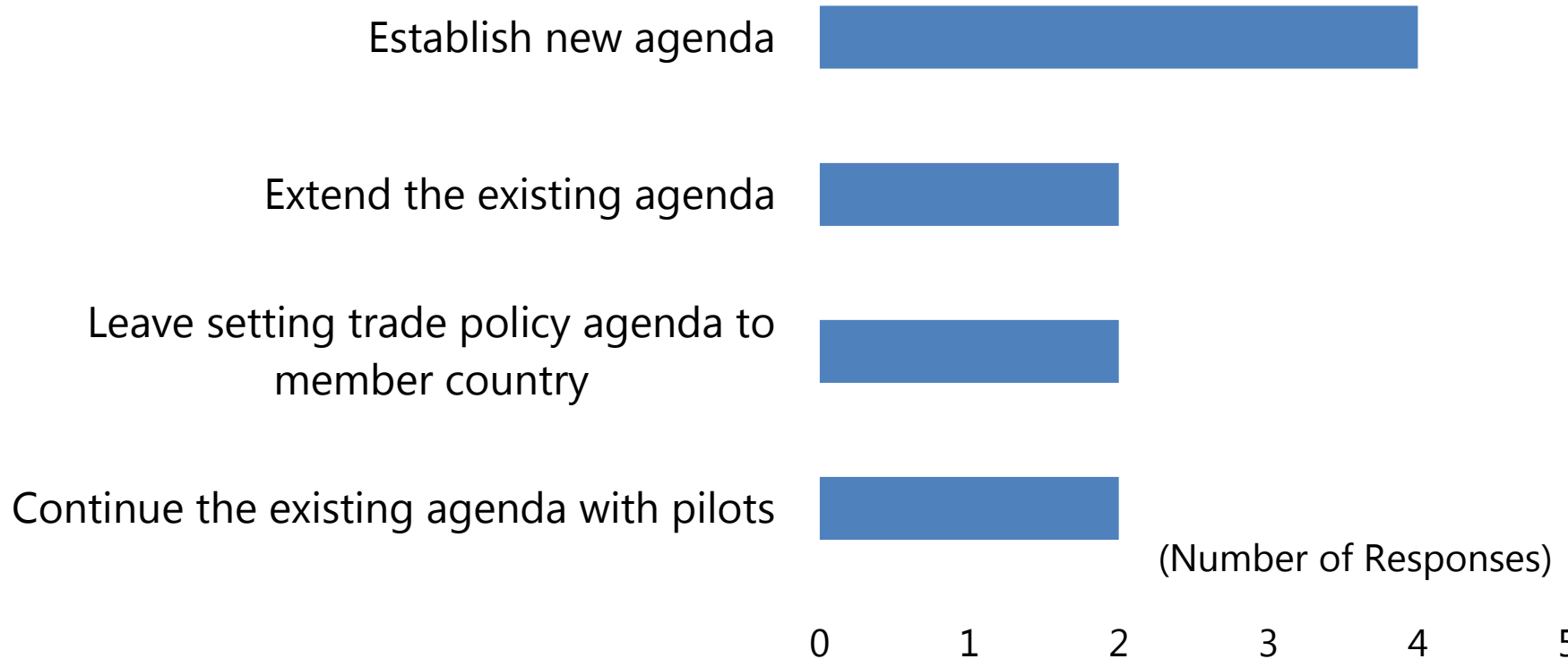
## Member Countries' Views on Policy Focus\*



\* Aggregate scores. Each country gave 5 points to its first priority, 4 points to its second priority, 3 points to the third, 2 points to the fourth, and 1 point to the fifth priority.

# CAREC Trade Policy Preferences

## Member Countries' Views on How to Forge New Agenda\*



\* Multiple responses were possible (7 countries with 9 responses).

# Post-2017 Trade Policy Agenda: General Considerations

Need to keep in mind four considerations:

- CAREC member countries' expressed preferences
- Implementation experiences so far
- Heterogeneity of CAREC member countries
- Global and regional trade policy trends

# Post-2017 Trade Policy Agenda: Dealing with Preferences and Heterogeneity

Two menu choice approaches:

- Continue with “common or set menu” approach, i.e. continue to establish the same trade policy commitments for all members
- Or shift to “à la carte menu” approach, i.e. members can pick and choose trade policy commitments from a given menu

# Post-2017 Trade Policy Agenda: Building a Trade Policy Commitment Menu

The post-2017 trade policy menu could be assembled with focus on:

- (1) Keeping and extending list of present trade policy commitments
- (2) Integrating trade policy and trade facilitation under CAREC
- (3) Narrowing focus toward trade in services
- (4) Narrowing focus toward capacity building
- (5) Broadening focus toward areas beyond WTO core areas

These five directions are not mutually exclusive.



# Transition Trade Policy Agenda for 2018

- Current TPSAP 2013 – 2017 expires by the end of this year
- New policy agenda will not be ready before 2018
- Thus, 2018 will be a transition year
- Given this, how should we handle the 2018 transition year?

**Thank You!**