

Formulating a new CAREC Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework

**8th CFCFA Annual Meeting
Dushanbe, Tajikistan
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CAREC WTO TFA Implementation

- **TFA came into force in February 2017**
- **8 CAREC countries are WTO members:**
AFG, PRC, GEO, KAZ, KGZ, MON, PAK, TAJ
- **Requirements upon entry into force:**
 1. National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF) or similar mechanism in place
 2. Notify WTO of
Category A designations and implement them
Category B and C designations with dates of implementation;
Category C will include information on technical assistance and capacity building required to implement

New CAREC 2030 Strategy

- ▶ June 2017 SOM broadly endorsed the overall directions, operational priorities and institutional arrangements of new strategy; further discussions at NFP meeting prior to endorsement at 16th MC
- ▶ Proposed Mission Statement: "A Regional Cooperation Platform to Connect People, Policies and Projects for Shared and Sustainable Development"
- ▶ 5 operational clusters
 - ▶ economic and financial stability;
 - ▶ trade, investment, economic corridors and tourism;
 - ▶ infrastructure and economic connectivity;
 - ▶ agriculture and water; and
 - ▶ social services.

New Institutional Arrangements

- Appropriate institutional arrangements to operationalize 5 operational clusters but keep CAREC's institutional structure simple, effective and efficient
- Ministerial Conference to serve as a high-level policy development forum
- Sector committees play important role and should be further strengthened and rationalized
- Proposal to merge trade policy and trade facilitation under a unified trade cluster; solicit views from related sector committees on the proposal

Trade Facilitation Sector

SOM endorsed/acknowledged:

- need to support member countries meet their TFA related commitments; assessment of the TFA implementation status in CAREC countries
- pilot initiatives of CAREC Advanced Transit System and noted the need to develop a legal framework and arrangement to regulate electronic data exchange
- the progress in implementing the CAREC Common Agenda for Modernization of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and standards for trade and instructed to undertake concrete actions on this agenda including building quality management infrastructure
- role of private sector - SMEs in regional value chains, participation in cross-border infra and logistics projects

New Trade Facilitation Strategic Framework

- ▶ New strategic framework , consistent with the new forthcoming CAREC Strategy 2030 and supports TFA implementation
 - ▶ Continue and deepen the existing areas of competence such as in customs and selected areas of integrated trade facilitation
 - ▶ Adopt and implement the latest global agenda on trade facilitation, i.e., WTO TFA
 - ▶ Reach out to related existing and new sectoral, cross-sectoral and broader policy areas where trade facilitation plays key roles, such as transport, agriculture, SME development, cross-border finance, cross-border economic zone, regional and global value chain, and e-commerce, etc;
 - ▶ Evaluate results objectively and continuously and strengthen implementation and adjust the program accordingly
 - ▶ Crush institutional silos for seamless exchange of information and effective coordination

CFCFA Way Forward

1. Strengthen Cooperation with Gov'ts
2. CFCFA Associations Training for private sector
3. Adoption of standards
4. Business logistics study
5. CPMM+

Thank you