



Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program

Reference Document
For Session 4 of the Senior Officials' Meeting
July 2016

15th Ministerial Conference Proposed Structure and Deliverables

**Senior Officials' Meeting
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
19–20 July 2016
Islamabad, Pakistan**

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I. Theme of the 15th Ministerial Conference (MC)

Linking Connectivity with Economic Transformation in CAREC

This theme, endorsed at the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) in June 2014 in Manila, was agreed upon to be carried for 2014–2020 for three major reasons:

- (i) the theme is anchored on CAREC 2020's strategic focus on improved connectivity as a means to attain the twin goals of trade expansion and improving competitiveness;
- (ii) the theme underlines the importance of leveraging physical connectivity as an input into strengthening regional spillovers of national efforts at economic transformation; and
- (iii) the long-standing theme is consistent for a longer time horizon, which will allow building, sustaining and accelerating the momentum in the Program.

II. Proposed Structure of the 15th MC

25 October: Senior Officials' Meeting

26 October: Ministerial Meeting including a Ministerial Retreat

III. Proposed deliverables to be presented at the 15th MC

- CAREC Railway Development Strategy;
- Launching of the regional food safety initiative;
- ABCI Investment Framework;
- Mid-term Review of CAREC 2020;
- Signing by all members of the Agreement Establishing the CAREC Institute or, for members that have not completed pre-signing authorizations, signing of a letter of intent to sign the agreement within X months; and
- Georgia membership in CAREC.

IV. Issues for Guidance of CAREC Senior Officials

- Views on the structure of the 15th MC
- Proposed deliverables to be presented at the 15th MC
- Proposed Energy Investment Forum on 24 October 2016.