

Statement for CAREC Ministerial Conference
Thomas Eriksson, UNDP

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Dear Colleagues,

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Government of Mongolia for hosting this event in this beautiful venue and its generous hospitality and the CAREC Secretariat for the impeccable organization.

Today is a momentous day for development. In a few hours the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit will start in New York, where world leaders are gathered to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals and agree on the post-2015 development agenda.

Together with the Sendai Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction that was held in March, the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in July and the upcoming Climate Change Conference in December in Paris, this year presents a “once in a generation” opportunity to unite the world behind agreements that will shape development in the years to come.

Building and expanding on the Millennium Development Goals, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, are very ambitious in scope by framing targets and indicators that aim to cover the breadth and depth of the complexities of pursuing sustainable development pathways.

They aim at ending poverty and hunger and providing access for all to health, education, water and sanitation, but also on reducing inequalities, empowerment of women, addressing climate change and managing the environment, as well as access to justice and inclusive governance.

And then there are important goals related to sustainable economic growth, sustainable agriculture, access to energy, building resilient infrastructure, promoting industrialization and innovation, and on urban development, issues which clearly touch on what CAREC is trying to achieve.

The last goal, number 17, aims at strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. Achieving the SDGs requires Governments, the private sector, regional and multilateral agencies and institutions and civil society to work together and dedicate their resources, technical as well as financial, to this end.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if you think this sounds a bit like CAREC then you are not mistaken! Over the past 14 years CAREC has become a model in the region for effective partnership and cooperation, investing in transport, trade facilitation and policy and energy to better link people with people and markets with markets and create conditions for increasing prosperity in the region.

As such, CAREC is well-positioned to play its role in the achievement of the SDGs, especially if it can convincingly show that its investments are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and have a demonstrable impact on improving prosperity, well-being and equal opportunities for all.

UNDP would like to congratulate the honorable national delegations and the other multilateral partners with another successful year in CAREC and stands ready to continue its cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.