

**CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM**  
**20<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**  
**17th November 2021 (1500-1730, Manila time)**

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**

**I. Introduction**

1. The 20th Ministerial Conference (MC) of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program was held virtually on 17th November 2021. The MC was attended by the ministers and senior officials from CAREC member countries and senior representatives from development partners (DPs). A special address of His Excellency, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, was delivered by Minister of Economy, Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov, and Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa delivered the keynote address. The MC was co-chaired by Mr. Jabbarov and Mr. Shixin Chen, Vice President (Operations 1), ADB. The MC deliberated and endorsed the CAREC Health Strategy 2030 and CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 and discussed the progress of implementation on the CAREC 2030 strategy. The MC included a presentation by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the Economic Recovery and Stabilization in CAREC Countries and statements by DPs including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the World Bank (WB) and the CAREC Institute (CI). A Joint Ministerial Statement was issued at the end of the MC. The statements by President Aliyev, President Masa, and Minister Jabbarov are in Appendix 1, the Joint Ministerial Statement, member countries' statements, the agenda, and the list of participants are in Appendix 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively.

**II. Highlights of the 20th Ministerial Conference**

2. **Inaugural Session.** On behalf of His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, Minister of Economy, Republic of Azerbaijan, Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov delivered a special message acknowledging the CAREC Program's contribution to the development of regional cooperation and strengthening the economic potential of member countries in the CAREC region. Mr. Jabbarov also delivered the welcome address and affirmed Azerbaijan's continued commitment to promote stronger regional cooperation and integration. ADB President Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, in his keynote address, highlighted ADB's support for CAREC throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the path to recovery. President Asakawa also emphasized the crucial roles of the "CAREC Digital Strategy 2030" and "CAREC Health Strategy 2030" as well as the tremendous potential for regional cooperation to ensure a strong and resilient future for members in the CAREC region. He also acknowledged that the first CAREC 2030 Development Effectiveness Review concludes that the Program is on track to achieve its goals and provides lessons for the Program going forward.

3. **Economic Recovery and Stabilization in CAREC Countries (by IMF).** Mr. Subir Lall, Deputy Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF, presented the regional economic outlook and risks in the CAREC region. In his presentation, Mr. Lall explained that a broad-based recovery was observed with progress towards vaccinating the populations. While continued recovery in the region is projected over the near term, downside risks to the recovery remain, including the further need for vaccination expansion; tightened availability of policy space to support the recovery; and the relatively high dependence of some economies on particular sectors such as tourism. Other risks include high oil prices, challenges presented by climate change, and social issues such as persistent unemployment. In order to support the economy and strengthen resilience in the region, Mr. Lall suggested that solid regional cooperation is essential to protect lives and livelihoods. Key actions include increasing vaccine availability; supporting member countries in improving their macro policy frameworks;

accelerating structural reforms to raise productivity and inclusiveness; and increasing job creation and incomes. He also highlighted that the region needs a new growth model with the private sector in the lead and the state providing a supportive investment environment by strengthening governance and leveraging opportunities offered by digitalization, green investment, and regional and global integration.

4. **2021 CAREC Deliverables for Endorsement.** Director General Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov presented the main deliverables; “CAREC Health Strategy 2030” and “CAREC Digital Strategy 2030” to the MC in video format<sup>1</sup> for endorsement. “CAREC Development Effectiveness Report” was also presented in video format for information<sup>2</sup>. The Ministers unanimously endorsed the deliverables and agreed that CAREC’s new initiatives in health and digitalization will support CAREC countries in recovering from the pandemic and in implementing the goals of the CAREC 2030 Strategy. The Ministers noted the relevance and timeliness of these strategies, committed active participation in and full support for the successful implementation of these strategies, and suggested some potential project opportunities.

5. The Ministers also highlighted that the ongoing pandemic provided both opportunities and challenges. It was noted that challenges remain to combat the pandemic and to realize economic recovery. However, opportunities for economic development for the CAREC region have also arisen such as the global trend of digital transformation and the acceleration of the digital economy, which requires greater efforts for regional cooperation and integration. The Ministers appraised that CAREC has been an effective regional cooperation platform that promotes connectivity and shared prosperity in the CAREC region, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. They thanked development partners for supporting member countries in making joint efforts to save lives, safeguard the livelihoods of people, and promote regional recovery.

6. **Partner Statements on Confirming Support for the CAREC Program.** Development partners (DPS) submitted written statements confirming their support for the CAREC Program. Several DPS also presented their statements at the MC and shared their views.

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) introduced five areas as drivers of the recovery from COVID-19 that it supports, namely health care, climate change financing and mitigation, use of technologies, the role of institutions to uncover new financing and risk-sharing models to entice private sector engagement, and investments in cross-border infrastructure. AIIB is committed to collaborating with the CAREC Program.
- The CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations (CFCFA) highlighted its contributions to modernizing national customs procedures, removing bottlenecks at borders, and developing and implementing procedures to facilitate cross-border trade. CFCFA looked forward to supporting the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 implementation.
- The CAREC Institute (CI) shared that had it adopted a new Institutional Strategy for 2021-2025 in line with the emerging needs to adapt quickly to the post-COVID business environment in the region. CI expressed its commitment to supporting the CAREC Program by providing demand-driven knowledge services for effective regional cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> Video links: [CAREC Health Strategy 2030](#); [CAREC Digital Strategy 2030](#)

<sup>2</sup> Video links: [CAREC 2030 DEFR](#)

- The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) stated that it assists intra-trade among its member countries following an “open regionalism” approach and increasingly supports the regional corridor approach for its member countries. IsDB is committed to further enhancing regional cooperation and integration to lay the ground for the recovery phase.
- The Eurasian Development Bank (EDB) emphasized its support for industrialization and penetration of new technologies and financial instruments in the Central Asian region. EDB confirmed its full-fledged support for the CAREC Program and shared its interest in investment and analytical cooperation with CAREC countries on the development of the water and energy complex, transport infrastructure, digitalization, as well as climate agenda.
- The Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD) emphasized the importance of timely and sufficient support for the development of social sectors considering exacerbated challenges in health and social protection systems. EFSD stated it will accelerate actions to address these issues to support the CAREC region.
- The Government of Japan (Japan) announced its 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Central Asian and Caucasus countries in 2022. Japan also informed the MC of its support for achieving connectivity, resilience and universal health coverage in the region. Japan confirmed its continued support for open and sustainable development in the CAREC region.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) informed the MC of its support for the region in battling climate change and modernizing the Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector, and called for efforts to put in place national policies and regulatory frameworks to ensure that emerging technologies benefit humanity.
- The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) stated its continued work to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development, leveraging new opportunities emanating from the fourth industrial revolution. UNIDO is looking forward to further strengthening its cooperation with the CAREC Program and the CAREC Institute.
- The United States of America (USA) emphasized the relevance of the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 and Health Strategy 2030 and expressed its support for the efforts of the CAREC Program to bolster the region’s digital connectivity and health security. The USA highlighted the importance of partnerships to improve regulatory frameworks to better facilitate trade and transit in the region.
- The World Bank (WB) reaffirmed its commitment to regional cooperation and integration for a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive COVID-19 recovery and ensuring investments benefit women and the vulnerable. WB welcomed the development of the CAREC Health and Digital Strategies 2030 and stated its support for these agendas.

7. **Remarks by the People’s Republic of China.** The People’s Republic of China (PRC) congratulated ADB and the government of Azerbaijan for successfully holding the 20<sup>th</sup> MC. PRC expressed its willingness to assume the rotating chairmanship for MC in 2022 and commitment to working closely with all partners in achieving CAREC deliverables through strengthened communication.

### III. Conclusion

8. The CAREC Ministers acknowledged that the 20th Ministerial Conference is a significant milestone that showcases the success of the CAREC Program. The MC deliberated on the theme “Connectivity, Cooperation, and Resilience in a Digital Era” and endorsed the CAREC Health Strategy 2030 and the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030. The Ministers noted the importance of connectivity, cooperation, and extensive use of digital technology in building resilient systems that can effectively contribute to the recovery. The Ministers commended the

CAREC Program and CAREC Institute for continued progress on the implementation of CAREC 2030 despite operational challenges caused by the pandemic. Further efforts to enhance institutional mechanisms and promote more robust participation from various stakeholders and partners were also appreciated. CAREC Ministers reaffirmed their commitment and support for the implementation of CAREC 2030.

9. The Ministers thanked the Government of Azerbaijan for chairing and hosting the 20th MC and expressed their gratitude to ADB for the support provided. The Ministers welcomed the People's Republic of China as the chair of the CAREC Program for the year 2022. The MC also welcomed support from development partners and looked forward to further collaboration.

## Appendix 1

### **Address by H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Dear President of the Asian Development Bank,  
Distinguished Ministers and delegates,

I warmly greet participants of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program's 20<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference.

During 20 years of activity with the support of the Asian Development Bank and other international organizations, the CAREC Program has made an important contribution to the development of regional cooperation and strengthening the economic potential of member countries in crucial areas such as economic and financial stability, infrastructure, trade and trade facilitation, tourism, energy, agriculture and water, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and human development.

Pursuant to the 44-day Patriotic War that put an end to the occupation of Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territories by Armenia, a new reality and favorable ground have emerged for the lasting peace, economic revival and cooperation in the region.

Restoration and development works are currently underway across the liberated territories of Azerbaijan. The establishment of necessary infrastructure, enabling incentives for business development, and implementation of new transport and economic corridors, especially the Zangazur corridor, are among the priorities on our economic agenda for years to come. The Zangazur corridor linking mainland Azerbaijan with its inseparable part - Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and Turkey will certainly enhance regional cooperation.

Azerbaijan is confident that the endorsement of the CAREC Digital and Health Strategies 2030 will serve as the beginning of a new stage of development in the CAREC region. To achieve our common goals, Azerbaijan will continue participating in the implementation of various projects on the CAREC program's priority areas.

I believe that consultations to be held in the framework of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference of the CAREC and the documents approved therein will positively contribute to create deepening regional economic cooperation among the CAREC Member States.

In conclusion, I wish you a very successful meeting and fruitful deliberations.

**H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev**  
**President of the Republic of Azerbaijan**  
**Baku, 17 November 2021**

## **Keynote address by Masatsugu Asakawa, ADB President**

### **Introduction**

Your Excellency Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan; CAREC Ministers and delegates; development partners, and distinguished guests:

Welcome to the 20th Ministerial Conference of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program. I extend my warm appreciation to the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting this year's conference.

I am encouraged by your continued strong commitment to promote regional cooperation in the CAREC region, as today is the 20th time that Ministers gather to discuss regional issues of common interest. The theme of our conference, "Connectivity, Cooperation, and Resilience in a Digital Era," is a timely and important one.

As we transition from the pandemic to a new normal marked by renewed globalization, we need to work together to strengthen regional cooperation including through digitalization. This will allow us to build resilience to future crises; restore trade; and emerge stronger, more connected, and more inclusive.

Let me discuss briefly how the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is supporting our developing member countries as they emerge from the pandemic and build for a lasting recovery.

### **I. ADB's support for CAREC through the COVID-19 pandemic and the path to recovery**

First, through our \$20 billion COVID-19 assistance package, we are providing immediate budget support for countercyclical expenditure programs, grants for medical equipment and supplies, and direct support to private businesses. Over \$5 billion of this assistance has been directed to CAREC countries.

And, through our \$9 billion Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility, or APVAX, we are supporting rapid and equitable access to vaccines, especially for poor and vulnerable populations. To date, over \$600 million in APVAX support has been directed to CAREC countries.

Second, the CAREC program, which ADB has been proud to support for the past 20 years, will be key to building for recovery across the region.

Since 2001, CAREC-related financing amounted to \$40 billion for 213 regional projects. Of this, \$15 billion has come from ADB; \$16 billion from other development partners; and \$9 billion from CAREC governments.

### **II. Building resilience through the CAREC program**

Let me highlight two CAREC initiatives, which will be considered by the Ministers today and will be crucial for a resilient future.

The first is the CAREC Health Strategy 2030, which will be key to achieving health security among CAREC countries.

We have seen that public health threats such as infectious disease outbreaks can quickly cross borders and become a global concern. The Health Strategy 2030 addresses this concern through:

- A roadmap for coordinated responses to public health challenges;
- Strengthened health governance, regional surveillance, and laboratory networks; and
- Enhanced cross-border movement of medical supplies and access to health services, particularly for vulnerable groups such as migrants and border communities.

The second important initiative is the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030, which will strengthen digital connectivity.

Digitalization can help to accelerate COVID-19 recovery and promote resilience in areas such as healthcare and education, agriculture, finance, trade, and tourism. The Digital Strategy 2030 will support this through improved policy coordination and regional digital solutions that address the region's socioeconomic challenges.

Key areas for digital development include core broadband and telecom infrastructure, e-commerce, automated border inspections, mobile banking systems that are compatible, telemedicine, and online education.

In addition to these initiatives, I am pleased to note that the first Development Effectiveness Review of the CAREC 2030 strategy concludes that the Program is on track to achieve its goals. Going forward, we must continue our efforts to make the Program more results-oriented, to reflect and learn from our past performance, and to jointly develop actions to respond efficiently to the emerging needs and priorities of developing member countries.

## **Closing**

Let me conclude by affirming my belief in the tremendous potential for regional cooperation to ensure a strong and resilient future for our members in the CAREC region. I look forward to continuing our successful work together.

Thank you.

**Welcoming Address of Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov,  
Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Your Excellency President of the Asian Development Bank!**

**Honourable delegates of CAREC countries and development partners!**

**Ladies and gentlemen!**

I warmly greet you from Baku, Azerbaijan. It is my great pleasure to serve as Chair of Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation 20<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference. I extend my appreciation to the Asian Development Bank and CAREC Secretariat for organizing such a high-level virtual event, as well as delegates of CAREC member countries and development partners for their participation. It is a third time our country hosts Ministerial Conference.

ADB, CAREC member countries and development partners continue to undertake efficient activity towards further development and strengthening of regional cooperation. As a CAREC chair for 2021, I want to express Azerbaijan's commitment to continue the promotion of stronger regional cooperation and integration.

As you are well aware, this year's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference theme "Connectivity, Cooperation, and Resilience in a Digital Era" is on the global agenda due to all the transformation processes that the world economies are going through. Today we are discussing significant milestones of CAREC Program, which are Digital Strategy 2030 and Health Strategy 2030.

We pay great attention to an increasing role and necessity of the digitalization and associated transformation of economy, which will serve as a tool for further enhancement of regional cooperation. A number of state programs are adopted aiming digital transformation of country's economy. "CAREC Digital Strategy 2030" will contribute to the changes initiated by our country's leadership.

As you are well aware, new era has started for Azerbaijan and for the region as a result of liberation of the occupied territories, which will facilitate implementation of ambitious initiatives. According to "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development" adopted in February 2021, large-scale rehabilitation and construction works are being carried out in the liberated territories. The concepts of "smart city" and "smart village" will be implemented with an application of the modern urban planning mechanisms. The foundation of the first "smart village" project has already been laid in Karabakh. "Green energy" projects are also being developed in liberated territories. A number of projects on the creation and development of "Green energy" have been approved initially



and other projects are being negotiated. Establishment of Center for Analysis and Coordination of the Fourth Industrial Revolution under the Ministry of Economy in January 2021 ensures Government's political line for innovation and digitalization.

It is not a secret that COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a serious threat for human health and global economy. From the very beginning, our government has been taking robust and practical measures to protect the population and to minimize negative impact of the pandemic. The Government of Azerbaijan fulfilled support mechanisms and launched a relief package worth of over 2 billion USD with a strong emphasis on businesses affected by the pandemic. As a result of well-planned measures, the situation with pandemic has been kept under control and the quarantine regime has been gradually eased. Azerbaijan's extensive efforts against the pandemic have been internationally recognized. In 2020 the World Health Organization hailed Azerbaijan as an exemplary country in fighting the pandemic.

In this regard "CAREC Health Strategy 2030" envisages concrete measures for technical preparedness of the countries' health systems for global health threats and improvement of the surveillance systems as well as infection prevention and control measures in border regions to protect travelers and population. It will certainly support partner countries' fight against COVID-19, and our country will continue its consistent efforts to contribute and strengthen regional cooperation and development in this practical aspect.

We believe that there is a need to take strong, cohesive and targeted global actions to recover better from the COVID-19. In this regard, Azerbaijan suggested a formation of the United Nations High-Level Panel on Global Recovery from the COVID-19, which could prepare recommendations on global measures for post-pandemic period.

"CAREC Digital Strategy 2030" and "CAREC Health Strategy 2030" presented for endorsement will have practical value in post-pandemic environment. Elaboration and efficient implementation of these documents will further support our joint efforts.

I wish each and every one of you successful discussions.

Thank you for your attention!

**Closing Remarks of Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov,  
Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Distinguished participants!

Today's CAREC 20th Ministerial Conference allowed us to efficiently discuss and endorse CAREC Program deliverables for 2021 and Joint Ministerial Statement.

The need for regional cooperation has become more apparent than ever in enabling a sustainable and inclusive recovery, while strengthening resilience in CAREC countries. Regional digital development, elimination of digital gaps, as well as the strengthening of regional health information exchange and innovation capacity are key aspects of development for the next decade. Endorsed strategies undoubtedly will provide innovative integrated solutions for solving challenges that countries are facing today.

As the world recovers from the pandemic, we must all come together to revive our regional cooperation considering new challenges, so that CAREC can use the opportunities of renewed globalization. This is a way to support our region to adapt to the new world, while also addressing inequalities and ensuring peace and prosperity for all.

It was my pleasure to serve as a Chair of this Conference and once again I would like to express my gratitude to Asian Development Bank, CAREC Secretariat and development partners for all the work done during this year.

I also would like to thank participants for their valuable contributions throughout the conference. Using this opportunity, I pass the chairmanship to my Chinese colleagues and wish China success in 2022 as CAREC host country.

Now I declare CAREC 20th Ministerial Conference closed.

Thank you for your attention!

**Joint Ministerial Statement  
20<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on  
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation  
17 November 2021**

***Connectivity, Cooperation, and Resilience in a Digital Era***

*Ministers from the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) member countries adopted the following statement at the conclusion of the 20th Ministerial Meeting on CAREC held virtually on 17 November 2021.*

**I. Connectivity, Cooperation, and Resilience in a Digital Era.**

1. The 20<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference is a momentous occasion that showcases the success of the CAREC Program. The current circumstances have further reinforced the importance and need of our continued collaboration under this regional platform. Over the past two years, we have witnessed the global nature of the COVID-19 pandemic that has underlined the interconnectedness of communities around the world. No-one is safe until everyone is safe. We note the importance of connectivity, cooperation, and extensive use of digital technology in building resilient systems that can effectively cope with the ongoing health crisis. Enhancing integration has emerged as a strategic priority in these times, which reaffirms the role of CAREC as a key regional initiative within an evolving development landscape. We commend the CAREC Program for continuing to adapt and innovate as per the dynamics of a challenging operational environment.

**II. Continued Progress on Implementation of CAREC 2030**

2. Economic and Financial Stability. We welcomed activities aimed to strengthen economic resilience and improve the investment climate in the region, which included high-level policy dialogues that brought together various stakeholders, comprising of CAREC countries, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (WB), and other development partners. The implications of the pandemic on financial stability and regional cooperation were discussed and the pivotal role of economic and stability in strengthening the post-pandemic recovery efforts was recognized.
3. Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridor Cluster
  - **On trade**, we were pleased with the commitment demonstrated by CAREC member countries to align with and translate international obligations and standards under the

World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement into domestic practices. We noted the commitment of CAREC member countries to continue their efforts towards modernizing Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures to facilitate trade while managing transboundary risks to human, animal, and plant health. To that end, we welcomed country-specific SPS trainings for CAREC member countries, including Uzbekistan and Georgia, as well as consultation workshops in which research and capacity building priorities were identified. We also noted the key improvements under the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda, specifically tackling challenges in e-commerce and e-trade related implementation. We commended the encouraging progress in e-commerce and digital trade cooperation, including the organization of CAREC Trade Week webinars on e-commerce experience sharing and applying digital innovations to trade, as well as the publication of knowledge products on Laws and Policies, and Infrastructure Development. We were pleased with the progress made on the technical assistance project on free trade agreement capacity building for CAREC countries, including on preparation of a roadmap to establish a CAREC wide FTA to deepen and expand the trade relationships among the member countries. We recognized the importance of strengthening exchanges and cooperation among border provinces and border towns, and resolved to explore establishing a mechanism for that purpose.

- **On tourism**, we welcomed the implementation of several regional initiatives under the CAREC Tourism Strategy 2030, including the development of a CAREC tourism portal as a tool for consolidating information on tourism zones in CAREC countries and promoting the services of local tourism businesses.
- **On economic corridors**, we were pleased with the expansion of the Economic Corridor Development (ECD) in the CAREC region, notably through transformative regional investment projects in the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC) and the implementation of the roadmap for the development of the Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor (STKEC). We also noted the work on developing the new ECD framework which will mainstream ECD operations.

We noted the rehabilitation and development of the Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur region of Azerbaijan, including establishment of the necessary infrastructure, enabling incentives for business development and implementation of new transport and economic corridors, which will contribute to the enhancement of regional cooperation.

#### 4. Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity

- **On Transport**, we noted the large number of knowledge products and the various outreach and capacity building activities carried out including virtual events, webinars, and a road asset management training workshop for the Kyrgyz Republic. We were pleased with the impact study of COVID-19 on CAREC Aviation and Tourism and the scoping study on CAREC Ports and Logistics. We welcomed railway sector assessments (RSAs) covering all CAREC countries and the completion of the CAREC Road Safety Engineering Manual. We also commend the ongoing technical assistance work that has supported the various transport strategies.

- **On Energy**, we were pleased with the achievement of key deliverables committed under the CAREC 2030 Strategy. We welcomed the virtual meeting of the Energy Sector Coordinating Committee (ESCC) as well as a series of interventions, including the research of launching a green financing program, a region-wide energy efficiency awareness program and a framework for the region's first energy program dedicated exclusively to women. Six new Energy Working Groups were also established and operationalized, and a web portal was launched which comprehensively outlines information and updates concerning CAREC's energy program. We appreciated the efforts being undertaken to organize the CAREC Energy Investment Forum.
5. **Agriculture and Water.** We noted efforts made in the agriculture sector to operationalize international food safety standards. In that regard, advisory services were provided for member countries to harmonize domestic legislation and regulations with international norms, such as the development of a new Food Safety Law. We were pleased that sectoral capacities of member countries were developed through trainings on best practices related to food hygiene. We welcomed the assessment undertaken in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan to improve the food safety management system. In the water sector, we appreciated the work undertaken to prepare the scoping study for water sector cooperation among the five Central Asian countries. The study describes the development trajectory in the region as it experiences the impact of climate change on water supply amid a rising demand for water. We were pleased with meetings held with representatives of the five Central Asia countries, inter-governmental and international organizations, development partners, and knowledge institutions.
  6. **Human Development.** We endorsed the CAREC Health Strategy 2030 for promoting health security through regional cooperation. This strategy will support the various stakeholders in the CAREC region to develop high quality and resilient health systems through institutional integration and knowledge sharing. This will enable countries of the CAREC region to strengthen their capacity to deal with health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic. We also appreciated the initiation of technical assistance for women's economic empowerment, which is being undertaken to implement the CAREC Gender Strategy 2030.
  7. **Information, communication, and digital technologies (ICT).** We endorsed the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 which aims to scale-up digital connectivity in the CAREC region by increasing public access to user-friendly IT services. This strategy will improve digital connectivity, help generate business activity, and stimulate economic growth in the CAREC region. We also appreciated the work being undertaken to improve the ICT connectivity in the CAREC Program, and for supporting start-up ecosystems in the CAREC region.

### III. CAREC Institute

We commended the CAREC Institute (CI) for achieving progress in all its priority areas and effectively implementing diverse activities to strengthen regional cooperation. We welcomed the

expansion of CI's research portfolio which shall contribute to an informed policy discourse in the region. We have noted that CI has increased its capacity to deliver capacity building and outreach activities through its dynamic online platforms. We encourage CI to further consult with Member Countries to fully understand their needs and provide tailored knowledge service, to support the inclusive, green and resilient post COVID-19 recovery.

#### **IV. Enhancing Institutional Mechanisms**

We appreciated the CAREC Development Effectiveness Review 2020, which is the first progress review of CAREC 2030 Strategy, and were pleased to note its emphasis on learning and continuous review of the CAREC program. We appreciated the continued support of development partners towards the implementation of the CAREC 2030 Strategy. We agree to further study the necessity and feasibility to develop the CAREC Regional Infrastructure Project Enabling Facility. We noted the potential of the private sector in contributing to sustainable development in the CAREC region. We expressed our appreciation to the CAREC Secretariat, the sector coordinating committees, and the CAREC Institute for their dedicated support to the CAREC Program.

#### **V. Conclusions and Acknowledgement**

We thank the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for chairing and hosting this 20th Ministerial Conference, and the Asian Development Bank for the support provided. We look forward to coming together in 2022 under the chairmanship of the People's Republic of China.

### Statement by Azerbaijan

Delivered by Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov, Alternate Governor for Republic of Azerbaijan  
in the Asian Development Bank/ Minister, Ministry of Economy

I would like to thank CAREC Secretariat for presenting us deliverables for endorsement.

As you are aware, during last months, relevant consultation meetings have been organized in order to discuss the presented documents. The Government of Azerbaijan has actively participated in those meetings and presented their views on the draft documents. In addition, all indicated materials have been circulated and carefully reviewed by the respective government agencies.

Regional cooperation is necessary to strengthen the sanitary and epidemiological security of our countries, develop the ICT sector and mobilize innovation and entrepreneurship.

In this regard, deliverables presented for endorsement will provide support for continuing successful implementation of “CAREC Strategy 2030”.

Taking above-mentioned into consideration, Azerbaijan has no objection regarding endorsement of “CAREC Digital Strategy 2030” and “CAREC Health Strategy 2030”.

Thank you for your attention.

## Statement by People's Republic of China

Delivered by Mr. Weiping Yu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance

Distinguished Minister Mikayil Jabbarov,  
Distinguished President Masatsugu Asakawa,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good afternoon!

It is my great pleasure to participate in the 20th Ministerial Conference of CAREC. Firstly, on behalf of the Chinese government, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the chair country Azerbaijan and ADB for their great effort in hosting this event.

Since its establishment, CAREC has been ever improving and continuously contributing to the connectivity and prosperity of the Central Asian area. Especially since the outbreak of COVID-19, CAREC member countries have been supporting each other and working together to protect people's health and promote economic recovery. China highly praises the vitality and resilience showcased through regional cooperation.

With the raging pandemic, countries are facing arduous challenges in the fight against COVID-19 and economic revival. Meanwhile, driven by the pandemic, the world is surging into a digital era. The digital economy has become the new engine for national economic development. This conference is right on time with "Connectivity, Cooperation, and Resilience in a Digital Era" as its theme. The CAREC Health Strategy and Digital Strategy to be approved by the MC fully reflected the resolution of all members for enhancing cooperation in the health sector and fight against the pandemic through joint effort in this tough time. It also showcases the vision for boosting the development of the digital economy to secure sustainable post-pandemic recovery. China supports such efforts and is willing to uphold the idea of multilateralism, consolidate unity and mutual trust to face challenges, and share opportunities with all parties jointly for common development. I would like to take this opportunity to make a few suggestions for driving further cooperation in CAREC:

**1. Strengthen practical cooperation to implement CAREC 2030.** Enhance the cooperation in key sectors including financial investment, trade, travel, and infrastructure connectivity for more pragmatic results to build a community of shared future for the CAREC region. Promote the coordination and alignment between national development strategies and multilateral cooperation initiatives, including the Belt and Road Initiative, Greater Mekong Sub-regional Economic Cooperation Mechanism (GMS), etc., to leverage the advantages of different mechanisms and forge a concerted effort for development. Meanwhile, it is also important to continuously deepen partnerships and let international organizations and think tanks such as ADB, WB, AIIB, and CAREC Institute play their roles, mobilize resources from the private sector to secure strong financial and intelligence support to the implementation of CAREC cooperation strategies.

**2. Enhance regional health cooperation to put people's lives first.** This pandemic highlighted the importance and urgency of enhancing public health cooperation. Countries should uphold the principle of putting people first and life first, prioritizing people's safety and health, while implementing policies in a scientific manner for a coordinated and systematic response. During the implementation of the CAREC Health Strategy, it is important to fully take



and respect opinions from all parties, strengthen the cooperation with WHO and other professional organizations, facilitate the establishment of a regional health system to continuously promote member countries' capability of public health emergency response.

**3. Boost digital economic development in the region driven by consistent innovation.** The world is undergoing another round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, digital technology and economy are experiencing accelerated development. All parties should take this historic opportunity and fully reach their greatest potential to actively implement the CAREC Digital Strategy, strengthen the cooperation in areas of digital infrastructure, digital business environment, and digital governance to promote regional digital connectivity. China made positive progress in digital economic development in recent years. We are willing to share our experience and develop partnerships with all parties.

I would also like to take this opportunity to appreciate the CAREC Institute for its achievement in study, training, capacity building, and knowledge sharing in the past year under the influence of COVID-19. With the support of its member countries and institutes like ADB, the CAREC Institute will take a step further and become an essential platform for knowledge cooperation to promote economic development in the Central Asian area. As the host country of the institute, China will continue our support for the development of CI as always.

Dear colleagues,

China has been consolidating and expanding our pandemic control and economic and social development results, scientifically implementing precise macro policies while facing the challenges of COVID-19 and external uncertainties since this year. Economic development has been ever stabling, strengthening, and ameliorating. Looking into the future, we will implement the new development concept based on the new development stage and accelerate the construction of a new development structure to achieve high-quality development for common prosperity. China's development will bring new opportunities to all countries including CAREC members and create new development dividends.

Recently, President Xi proposed a global development initiative that aims to accelerate the implementation of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in order to realize a strong, green, and healthy global development. China is willing to work together with CAREC countries to constantly push forward the connectivity and integration of the regional economy, make new contributions to the prosperity and development of this area.

Thank you!

## 一、 CAREC 各成员发言环节

尊敬的米卡伊尔·贾巴罗夫部长，尊敬的浅川雅嗣行长，各位同事，女士们、先生们、朋友们，下午好！

很高兴参加中亚区域经济合作（CAREC）第20次部长级会议。首先我代表中国政府对主席国阿塞拜疆政府及亚行为筹备此次会议所付出的努力表示感谢！

CAREC 机制成立以来日臻完善，为推动中亚地区互联互通和繁荣发展做出了积极贡献。特别是新冠肺炎疫情发生以来，CAREC 各国相互支持、携手共进，共同守护人民生命健康，努力促进经济复苏发展，显示了区域合作的活力与韧性，中方对此高度赞赏。

当前，疫情仍在全球肆虐，各国战胜疫情、实现经济复苏仍面临艰巨挑战。同时，受疫情推动，世界正加速进入数字时代，数字经济成为推动各国经济发展的新动能。此次会议以“数字时代的互联互通、合作与韧性”为主题，可谓恰逢其时。会议拟核准的 CAREC 卫生战略和数字战略，充分反映了各方在当前疫情背景下加强区域卫生合作、共同抗击疫情的坚定决心，体现了推动数字经济发展、实现疫后可持续复苏的积极愿望。中方对此表示支持，并愿与各方一道始终秉持多边主义精神，进一步夯实团结互信，共同应对挑战、把握机遇，致力于共同发展。在此，我愿就促进 CAREC 合作提几点建议：

一是加强务实合作，落实好《CAREC 2030 战略》。应深化在金融投资、贸易、旅游及基础设施互联互通等重点领域合作，多出务实成果，推动构建 CAREC 区域命运共同体。应加强与各国国别发展战略以及“一带一路”倡议、大湄公河次区域经济合作机制（GMS）等多边合作倡议的协调对接，发挥各机制优势，凝聚发展合力。同时，要不断深化伙伴关系，发挥亚行、世行、亚投行、中亚学院等国际组织和智库的支持作用，积极动员私营部门资源，为落实好 CAREC 合作战略提供有力的资金与智力支持。

二是坚持生命至上，加强卫生区域合作。此次疫情凸显了加强区域公共卫生合作的重要性与紧迫性。各国应秉持人民至上、生命至上理念，将人民生命安全和身体健康放在突出位置，科学施策，统筹系统应对。在 CAREC 卫生战略实施过程中，要充分听取和尊重各成员国意见，并加强与世界卫生组织等专业机构的协调合作，推动完善区域卫生体系建设，不断提高成员国应对重大突发公共卫生事件的能力。

三是坚持创新驱动，推动区域数字经济发展。当今世界正在经历新一轮科技革命和产业革命，数字技术与数字经济加速发展。各方应抓住这一历史性机遇，充分挖掘自身潜力，积极落实 CAREC 数字战略，加强在数字基础设施、数字营商环境、数字治理等领域合作，着力促进区域数字互联互通。中国近年来在发展数字经济方面取得积极进展，愿同各方分享发展经验并开展合作。

借此机会，我也想对中亚学院管理层一年来面对疫情影响，在研究、培训、能力建设、知识分享等方面取得的成绩表示赞赏，希望其在各成员国和亚行等机构的支持下，进一步将学院打造成促进中亚区域经济发展的重要知识合作平台。中方作为学院东道国，将一如既往支持中亚学院发展。

各位同事，今年以来，面对疫情考验和外部环境的不确定性，中国政府巩固拓展疫情防控和经济社会发展成果，科学精准实施宏观政策，经济发展呈现稳中加固、稳中向好态势。未来，我们将继续立足新发展阶段，贯彻新发展理念，加快构建新发展格局，推动高质量发展，促进共同富裕。中国的发展将给包括 CAREC 成员国在内的各国带来新的发展机遇，创造新的发展红利。

不久前，习近平主席提出了全球发展倡议，旨在加快落实联合国 2030 年可持续发展议程，推动实现更加强劲、绿色、健康的全球发展。中方愿与 CAREC 各成员国一道，继续推进本区域经济互联互通与一体化，为本地区繁荣与发展做出新的贡献。谢谢大家！

## 二、中方作为明年主席国作简短表态发言

各位同事，

首先，我想再次就本次部长级会议的成功举办向东道国阿塞拜疆政府和亚行 CAREC 秘书处表示祝贺和感谢！中方很高兴将担任 2022 年 CAREC 机制的轮值主席国，愿与各成员国、亚行和发展伙伴一道，团结一致、共克时艰，落实好今年部长级会议的各项成果。同时，将加强与各方沟通协调，充分听取对明年部长级会议各项安排和成果的意见和建议，推动 CAREC 合作取得新的积极进展，共同为深化 CAREC 务实合作、促进区域可持续复苏和融合发展做出积极贡献。

## **Statement by Georgia**

Delivered by Ms. Natela Turnava, Alternate Governor for Georgia at the Asian Development Bank/  
Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov for chairing today's Ministerial. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the ADB and CAREC secretariat for the organization of this event as well as convey many thanks to Honorable ministers and all the member delegations and representatives of development partner institutions for their participation.

At the outset, let me briefly share with you Georgia's recent experience in fight against Covid pandemic as well as a short story of our economic recovery.

Prior to COVID-19 pandemic, Georgian economy was characterized with robust growth, averaging 4.9 percent between 2017 and 2019. Georgia was hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, however has managed to effectively respond to the pandemic related challenges. Government of Georgia took decisive actions to ensure access to Covid-19 vaccines available to all citizens and substantial support was provided to vulnerable households and businesses.

Government support measures and efficient response to the shock created strong economic fundamentals for post Covid recovery. After the economic contraction – by 6.2 percent in 2020, Georgia's economic recovery has gained surprising momentum, in January-September economic growth amounted to 11.3 percent and real GDP significantly exceeded (by 5.7 percent) pre-pandemic level as well. The economy shows broad-based recovery driven by improvement in domestic and external demand. The economic activity improved in every sector of the economy, including manufacturing, construction, services and tourism related activities.

The preliminary results of economic activity in 2021 are more positive than previously forecasted by IFI's, far exceeding expectations. Government of Georgia expects double digit (10%) economic growth rate in 2021. According to IMF projections Georgia will ensure fastest economic recovery in medium term among regional and European countries, amounting to 5.8%, supported by infrastructure spending and sustained structural reforms to increase productivity and enhance private sector-led growth.

Georgia prioritized the structural reforms to focus on long-term development goals. The priorities of structural reforms are oriented at structural transformation of the economy, inclusive access to the economic opportunities, decrease of external vulnerability, increase of savings and productivity enhancement.

To underscore the importance of CAREC, it is vital to stress that CAREC serves as a long-term regional cooperation initiative with the goal of promoting sustainable economic development and shared prosperity in the region.

With great appreciation, I would like to emphasize that CAREC program, in close cooperation with the ADB and other development institutions, has invested up to 3 billion US dollars in Georgia over the course of 5 years in various infrastructure projects. The ADB's financial

support in Georgia's response to the accelerated pressure caused by the Covid pandemic is essential.

Since its accession, Georgia has been an active member in all CAREC-related activities. The objectives and principles of the new CAREC Strategy 2030 is in full alignment with the priorities set by the Government of Georgia.

CAREC 2030 implementation progress has been quite considerable over the recent years despite the drawbacks caused by the Covid pandemic. We have seen tangible results in all 5 operational clusters.

### **Healthcare**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of health security. As public health threats, such as infectious diseases outbreaks can quickly cross borders and become a cross-border concern, regional health cooperation is key to achieving health security amongst CAREC countries.

With support of CAREC Health Cooperation Strategy 2030, CAREC member states will be able to mitigate regional health risks as well as build resilient national health systems through developing joint prevention, surveillance, and response capacity for infectious diseases; Strengthen and harmonize regional standards and regulation (e.g., with International Health Regulations); Improve Regional Health Security infrastructure (laboratory, waste management, surge capacity, rapid response).

### **Digital & ICT**

In recent years, digital technologies have spread rapidly and found new applications in many dimensions of our societies, whether in health, education, communication, work, or government. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated these trends and new digital solutions have helped households, firms and the public sector to better cope with periodic lockdowns and other restrictions to movement and physical contact, ability to work remotely for extended periods.

Bridging the digital divide is one of the main challenges worldwide and for Georgia as well. Georgia took steps to grow its digital economy. The "National Broadband Development Strategy (NBDS) 2020-2025", adopted last year, sets ambitious goals for the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector.

We have started the Log-in Georgia Project to implement the Strategy, which aims to increase the high-speed broadband coverage in rural areas.

We are exploring how to attract investment in digital corridors and data centers, which could make Georgia the South Caucasus regional digital hub and a gateway between the Europe and Asia.

As digital and IT communications is posed as one of the priority areas for the Government of Georgia, we commend and support CAREC Digital Strategy 2030, which serves as an instrument to help digital transformation through regional cooperation.

To conclude, I would like to once again express my gratitude to ADB and CAREC for providing the opportunity to attend this very important event as well as to all the participants for their fruitful contributions.

### **Statement by Kazakhstan**

Delivered by Mr. Alibek Kuantyrov, Vice-Minister, Ministry of National Economy/  
CAREC National Focal Point

Dear Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, President, ADB,

Dear Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Economy of Azerbaijan,

I would like to express sincere gratitude to ADB, the CAREC Secretariat and personally to Minister Jabbarov for hosting this conference.

Central Asian countries have sufficient potential in all areas of the economy.

According to leading international experts, in 2020 the average economic growth rate in Central Asia was 1.7%. As of 2021, the forecast shows an optimistic rate of 4.9%. I believe that each country has made a significant contribution to the rapid recovery of the economy in the region. Thus, several packages of anti-crisis measures were implemented in Kazakhstan during the last year for a total amount of \$15 billion or 9% of GDP, which made it possible to limit the decline in economic growth to 2.5% as of 2020.

Moreover, we are now shifted to the recovery growth dynamics. According to the results of 10 month this year, the economic growth rate accelerated to 3.5%. By the end of this year, we expect the growth rate to reach the mark of 4%.

For over 20 years, the CAREC Program has achieved significant results, which represents an important role in strengthening and developing strategic partnership between our countries.

Amid the pandemic, it is critical to strengthen cooperation in such areas as trade, economic corridors, transport connectivity, healthcare, and tourism.

Today there are two important topics on the agenda.

One of such issues is digitalization. In the current environment, the digital interaction of the CAREC countries can serve as a new momentum in our relations.

Kazakhstan is conducting tremendous work to accelerate digital transformation. The Government has developed the National Project «Technological Breakthrough through Digitalization, Science and Innovation», the goal of which is to make Kazakhstan a modern country with effective public administration through digital transformation.

We believe that the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 is an important document that will form the foundation for the creation of the CAREC digital space.

As always, Kazakhstan is open to collaboration and ready not only to share experience, but also to adopt the best practices of other countries.

Along with digitalization, healthcare is another crucial and life concerning area, which became a key indicator of society's development during the pandemic.

Since the Pandemic has become a reminder that viruses do not stop at national borders. Public health threats, such as infectious disease outbreaks, can be devastating to lives, economies, and healthcare systems. The current situation re-emphasized the need for better control over the epidemiological situation through strengthening global and regional cooperation to overcome health threats.

We also highly appreciate the work of ADB and the CAREC Secretariat in the preparation of the reporting documents such as the CAREC Development Effectiveness Report, Regional Infrastructure Projects Enabling Facility Concept, Water Pillar Scoping Study.

In conclusion, I would like to note that the CAREC 2030 Strategy is being successfully implemented in Kazakhstan.

We support ADB's work in all areas and endorse the draft CAREC Health Cooperation Strategy 2030 and the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030.

Thank you for attention.

## **Statement by Kyrgyz Republic**

Delivered by Mr. Eldar Alisherov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce

Good afternoon, dear participants of the 20th Ministerial Conference (MC), distinguished Chairman Mr. Jabbarov and distinguished President of ADB Mr. Asakawa, first of all, allow me to express a hope that this MC will be our last virtual conference and next year we will have a chance to simply shake hands and remember the benefits of face-to-face communication among good friends and old neighbors.

The COVID-19 pandemic is not the first and, most likely, not the last global challenge we would have to deal with, and I sincerely hope that we will be able to radically change the situation and finally gain the upper hand in the fight against the pandemic, bringing our citizens' life back to normal. With this, let us no longer waste our precious online time on the topic of COVID-19, and go directly to the substance of the issues discussed today.

ICT development has become an integral part of economic growth of a modern state, and therefore the development of the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 will allow us to better understand the role digital transformation and technology can play in strengthening economic cooperation in the region.

Besides, the adoption of the CAREC Strategy for Health Cooperation until 2030, should help our region become better prepared for new global challenges.

The key provisions of both strategies we are adopting today are aimed at creating a solid foundation for the beginning of a qualitatively new stage of regional cooperation in the selected areas, and we, of course, approve of them, and in turn want to assure that we will try to make every effort to effectively implement them.

In conclusion, let me express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the CAREC Secretariat for the excellent organization of the 20th CAREC Ministerial Conference. I would also like to thank the Asian Development Bank and our other international development partners for their close cooperation and contribution to development, both within the CAREC program and on the bilateral basis.



**Э.Алишеров:** Добрый день уважаемые участники 20-й Министерской конференции (МК), уважаемый председатель г-н Джаббаров и уважаемый Президент АБР г-н Асакава, прежде всего позвольте выразить надежду что данная МК станет нашей последней Виртуальной конференцией и в следующем году мы будем иметь шанс просто пожать друг другу руки и вспомнить преимущества реального общения хороших друзей и старых соседей.

Пандемия КОВИД-19 это не первый и, скорее всего, не последний глобальный вызов с которым нам придется иметь дело, и я искренне надеюсь, что мы сможем коренным образом переменить ситуацию и окончательно одержать вверх в борьбе с пандемией, вернув жизнь наших граждан в привычное русло. На этом позвольте больше не тратить наше драгоценное онлайн время на тему КОВИД-19, и перейти непосредственно к сути рассматриваемых сегодня вопросов.

Развитие ИКТ стало неотъемлемой составляющей экономического роста современного государства, и поэтому разработка Цифровой стратегии ЦАРЭС до 2030 года позволит нам лучше понять какую роль могут играть цифровая трансформация и технологии в укреплении экономического сотрудничества в регионе.

Также как и принятие Стратегии ЦАРЭС в области сотрудничества в сфере здравоохранения до 2030, должно помочь нашему региону стать более подготовленным к новым глобальным вызовам.

Ключевые положения обеих принимаемых нами сегодня стратегий направлены на создание прочного фундамента для начала качественно нового этапа регионального сотрудничества в выбранных сферах, и мы, конечно же, одобряем их, и в свою очередь хотим заверить в том, что постараемся приложить максимум усилий по их эффективной реализации.

В завершении, позвольте выразить слова благодарности Правительству Республики Азербайджан и Секретариату ЦАРЭС за отличную организацию 20-й Министерской конференции ЦАРЭС. Также хотел бы поблагодарить Азиатский банк развития и других наших международных партнеров по развитию за тесное сотрудничество и за вклад в развитие, как в рамках программы ЦАРЭС, так и на двусторонней основе.

## **Statement by Mongolia**

Delivered by Mr. Narantsogt Sanjaa, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Dear Minister, Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister of Economy of Azerbaijan,

Dear President, Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, ADB President,

Honorable Ministers and Heads of delegations,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to represent the Government of Mongolia at the 20th Annual Ministerial Conference of CAREC program.

First of all, I would like to distinguish the remarkable effort of the CAREC Secretariat to implement such an important for this time strategies of “CAREC Health Strategy 2030” and “CAREC Digital Strategy 2030” in order to improve the regional cooperation outcomes by integrating the operations to new participants, implementing new development goals, and resolving member countries’ economic difficulties while simultaneously facing the global pandemic situation.

The CAREC Health Strategy 2030 aims to promote health cooperation between CAREC countries, improve the effectiveness of countries’ health systems in combating threats to public health, and ensure the health of the regional people and improve the health system framework results to fight against the health threats in member countries. In other words, in the event of a pandemic, in order to protect the health of the population, the CAREC region should have a unified policy to improve health management capacity, effectively respond to potential threats to public health, and seek international support and coordination in other areas. It also aims to support countries in the region to improve laboratory infrastructure, resulting in an improved communicable disease surveillance system and an automated prevention system.

On the other hand, “CAREC Digital strategy 2030” with slogan “Good neighbor, good partner and good perspectives” tightly intervene with the CAREC 2030 program’s long-term goals in the face of creating a single CAREC digital space that will ensure inclusive economic growth and build favorable social environment and, in this connection, create new jobs, especially for vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities, increase the regional competitiveness, and provide better services. To achieve this vision the strategy aims to create data-driven digital e-governance where CAREC’s regional governments, businesses and the general public will be able to access the information they need in a timely manner through an easy, fast and reliable online service.

The above programs are fully in line with the goals of the “Vision - 2050” and Mongolia's long-term development policy approved by the Parliament of Mongolia. In the last two years, the

health care system in all countries of the world has deteriorated due to the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and our country is no exception. We are grateful for the CAREC-Health Strategy 2030, which includes many innovative initiatives to support the health system in the event of an infectious disease.

The Government of Mongolia fully supports these new strategies of cooperation, which are in line with the policy documents of our country and the goals and objectives of the Government Action Plan.

We hope that our cooperation and mutual understanding will lead to the successful implementation of new strategies.

Thank you for your attention.

## **Statement by Pakistan**

Delivered by Mr. Mian Asad Hayauddin, Secretary Economic Affairs Division and  
ADB Alternate Governor

Good afternoon Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov and respected delegates!

Let me begin by thanking the ADB and the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting this important meeting, which enables the member countries to provide input for the long-term strategic frameworks to achieve envisaged regional cooperation goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the process of economic integration and risked reverting its progress by hindering the flows of resources such as goods and services, movement of people, and financial mobility. It has also increased volatility in the financial markets, resulting in financial vulnerability and instability. On top of that, rapid geo-political changes in the region have also severely affected intra-regional trade in CAREC region which is already lowest when compared to other regional associations. This underscores the need for effective and sustainable cooperation to achieve shared goals of prosperity and growth.

Pakistan has signed a transit trade agreement with Uzbekistan and is in process of negotiating a Preferential Trade Agreements with Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Azerbaijan. Moreover, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline, and CASA 1000 projects also have immense potential of linking the energy systems of CARs with Pakistan. However, this cannot be realized without immediately addressing the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan which is currently suffering from acute food and health crisis, an economic meltdown, soaring unemployment, and a possible famine. Therefore, CAREC member countries should play a crucial role for helping Afghanistan realize its foreign trade potential and its potential as a transit hub.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to inform that Pakistan has already given specific observations and recommendations on the two strategic documents during recently held country consultations; however, while endorsing the final documents, I would share few key thoughts on those on each of those:

### **CAREC Health Strategy 2030**

The Government of Pakistan welcomes the development of CAREC Health Strategy 2030, as COVID-19 pandemic while creating challenges for the existing health system also created new opportunities for countries to work together in various areas.

Regional Health Security is an important area for collaboration, which is proven in this pandemic that countries need to ensure epidemiological surveillance, traveller's health and cross border infection prevention control strategies.

The four pillars of the CAREC Health Strategy are very pertinent to the current pandemic situation and strengthening these areas will minimize the public health threats.

Data surveillance is a key pillar of any pandemic response. Therefore, prompt action is needed to jointly work on prevention of disease transmission, quarantining and generation of evidence for public health action;

A functional Laboratory Management Information System is the need of the hour to ensure traceability of results and facilitate laboratory data management and sharing;

Regional cooperation is also required to develop a strong supply chain management system to remove barriers for access to affordable and quality medicines including vaccines.

### **CAREC Digital Strategy 2030**

E-government citizen services play an important role in efficient and transparent delivery of services to citizens. CAREC members can collaborate on development and delivery of citizen centric e-government services.

E-governance is a multi-disciplinary domain split over various streams of management, technology, and legislations. Research collaboration and knowledge sharing among CAREC members can play a significant role in learning from each other's experiences and development & implementation of better e-governance models.

With the increased risk of sophisticated threats in cyber space, there is a greater need for CAREC members to undertake efforts to cooperate in combating cyber threats. CAREC members can create a central forum to share experiences and intelligence on cyber threats.

Exchange of Information Technology among students and universities of CAREC members to better understand common problems and share innovative ideas.

In addition to regular meetings among member states, an E-portal should be developed that keeps a track of digital transformation initiatives (infrastructure, capacity building, legislation, E-Governance, Fintech) undertaken by member states. This portal will serve as a useful tool to see the progress of member states in areas of interest. Moreover, member states can collaborate on digital transformation initiatives of common interest.

We are hopeful for the swift implementation of the CAREC Health and Digital Strategies. We believe in building strong synergies to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable socio-economic development.

Thank you.

## **Statement by Tajikistan**

Delivered by Mr. Nematullo Hikmatullozoda,  
Assistant to the President of Tajikistan on Economic Issues,  
Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan/ CAREC National Focal Point

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Dear Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa,

Dear Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me, on my behalf and on behalf of the Tajik delegation, to welcome all participants at the 20th Jubilee Ministerial Conference on the CAREC Program and warmly congratulate all of you on this significant date. Of course, we didn't want to celebrate this event in such a way. But I think we will still have an opportunity in the near future to organize a face-to-face meeting to celebrate this significant date. Twenty years of the Program's implementation strongly prove the correctness of the path chosen by our countries towards consistent regional economic integration, the significance of which is only increasing from year to year.

Since the last virtual Ministerial Conference, despite the serious developments that have taken place in the CAREC region and, in general, a rather challenging year for all our countries, significant work has been done by member countries and multilateral institutions within the framework of the CAREC Program. Therefore, taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to our colleagues from the Government of Azerbaijan for the chairmanship this year, as well as the team of the Asian Development Bank, especially the CAREC Secretariat for the impeccable organization of the Program events in these difficult conditions.

I would also like to thank our colleagues from the ADB, IMF, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, World Bank and CAREC Institute for their statements.

The newly developed CAREC Health Strategy 2030 aims at addressing health threats in the CAREC region in a comprehensive, effective, and sustainable manner. This strategy prioritizes leadership, coordination and capacity building, with a particular focus on emergency management; improving epidemiological surveillance and laboratory infrastructure; increasing capacity to meet the surge in demand and access to consumable materials; expanding health services for migrants, border communities and vulnerable groups.

In addition, the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 was developed this year. We fully support its focus on creating a common digital space for CAREC by building a data-driven digital economy in the region, with swift online access to relevant information and reliable, user-friendly digital services for all citizens and businesses across the CAREC region. The implementation of the Strategy's provisions will provide an avenue to obtain equal access to any opportunities created through the mechanism of regional cooperation. I would like to emphasize that the CAREC Strategy 2030 emphasized that the integrated use of information and communication technologies across the entire range of activities under the CAREC Program is a cross-cutting

priority. Therefore, it is critical to identify ways to accelerate digital adaptation across all five CAREC operational clusters to obtain digital dividends in the form of increased growth, job creation, and higher quality services.

I would like to note that both strategies presented today for our approval are the result of long and painstaking work by the governments of the CAREC countries, a large group of experts and consultants, as well as the staff of multilateral institutions. We approve of them.

We also took note of the draft Program Development Effectiveness Review for 2020 and the CAREC Secretariat Progress Report for the past year presented for our consideration. I would especially like to emphasize the work of the CAREC Institute, which continues to delight us with its very useful and informative products/reviews on the most relevant topics.

As you know, one of the key priorities of many CAREC countries' governments is the development of transit potential required to expand the integration processes of trade and economic relations in the CAREC region. The CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations (CFCFA) we established with ADB's financial and technical support is quite successful in promoting the development of transport corridors in the region. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could significantly affect the bottom line of the economic performance of the trade facilitation process. Therefore, taking this opportunity, I request our esteemed colleagues to support the proposal of the Republic of Tajikistan to continue providing technical assistance to CFCFA by our esteemed development partners (primarily the Asian Development Bank) on the basis of appropriate partnerships.

We are confident that this year's activities will enhance the CAREC's profile as a results-based program and provide a new impetus for enhanced further interest and increased support from multilateral institutions.

Availing this opportunity, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to reaffirm our full support for the CAREC Program. We will continue to interact with all Program member countries and development partners based on the principles of equality and common interests to implement our long-term vision of regional cooperation - Good Neighbors, Good Partners, Good Prospects.

In conclusion, I would like to wish all the participants of the 20th Ministerial Conference successful cooperation under the CAREC Program, so that together, from a stronger position, we can participate in global competition to achieve sustainable development of our economies and improve well-being of the citizens of the region.

Thank you for attention.

Спасибо, господин Председатель!

Уважаемый господин Масацугу Асакава,

Уважаемые министры, дамы и господа,

Прежде всего, позвольте от своего и от имени таджикской делегации приветствовать всех участников юбилейной, двадцатой Министерской конференции Программы ЦАРЭС и горячо поздравить всех вас с этой знаменательной датой. Конечно, мы совсем не так хотели отметить это событие. Но думаю, у нас еще будет возможность в ближайшем будущем организовать очную встречу для празднования этой знаменательной даты. Двадцать лет реализации Программы убедительно доказывают правильность выбранного нашими странами пути по последовательной региональной экономической интеграции, значение которой только усиливается год от года.

За прошедшее время после прошлой виртуальной Министерской конференции, несмотря на произошедшие серьезные события в регионе ЦАРЭС и в целом достаточно тяжелый год для всех наших стран, в рамках Программы ЦАРЭС странами-участницами и многосторонними институтами была проделана значительная работа. Поэтому, пользуясь случаем, хочу выразить слова благодарности нашим коллегам из Правительства Азербайджана за председательство в этом году, а также команде Азиатского Банка Развития, особенно Секретариату ЦАРЭС за безукоризненную организацию мероприятий Программы в этих непростых условиях.

Также хотел поблагодарить наших коллег из АБР, МВФ, Азиатского Банка Инфраструктурных инвестиций, Всемирного Банка и Института ЦАРЭС за сделанные ими заявления.

Разработанная новая Стратегия ЦАРЭС в сфере здравоохранения до 2030 года нацелена на комплексное, эффективное и устойчивое устранение угроз общественному здоровью в регионе ЦАРЭС. Данная стратегия уделяет приоритетное внимание лидерству, координации и усилению кадрового потенциала с особым упором на руководстве при чрезвычайных ситуациях; улучшению эпидемиологического надзора и лабораторной инфраструктуры; увеличению мощностей для удовлетворения резкого роста спроса и доступа к материалам; расширению услуг здравоохранения для мигрантов, приграничных сообществ и уязвимых групп.

Также в этом году была разработана Цифровая стратегия ЦАРЭС до 2030 года. Мы полностью поддерживаем ее направленность на создание общего цифрового пространства ЦАРЭС через формирование в регионе цифровой экономики, основанной на данных, с быстрым онлайн-доступом к актуальной информации и надёжными, удобными для пользователя цифровыми сервисами для всех граждан и предприятий по всему региону ЦАРЭС. Реализация положений данной Стратегии даст возможность в получении равного доступа к любым возможностям, создаваемым через механизм регионального сотрудничества. Хочу особо отметить, что в Стратегии ЦАРЭС-2030 подчеркнута, что интеграция использования информационно-коммуникационных технологий по всему спектру деятельности в Программе ЦАРЭС является сквозным



приоритетом. Поэтому очень важно определить пути для ускорения цифровой адаптации в всех пяти операционных кластерах ЦАРЭС для достижения цифровых дивидендов в виде повышенного роста, создания новых рабочих мест и более качественных услуг.

Хотел бы отметить, что обе стратегии, представленные сегодня на наше утверждение, являются результатом длительной и кропотливой работы правительств стран ЦАРЭС, большой группы экспертов и консультантов, а также персонала многосторонних институтов. Мы одобряем их.

Мы также приняли к сведению представленные на наше рассмотрение проект Обзора эффективности развития Программы за 2020 год и Отчет Секретариата ЦАРЭС о проделанной работе за прошедший год. Особо хочу подчеркнуть работу Института ЦАРЭС, который продолжает нас радовать своими очень полезными и информативными продуктами/ обзорами по наиболее актуальным темам.

Как Вы знаете, одним из основных приоритетов правительств многих стран ЦАРЭС является развитие транзитного потенциала, необходимого на расширение интеграционных процессов торгово - экономических взаимоотношений в регионе ЦАРЭС. Созданная нами Федерация Ассоциаций Перевозчиков и Экспедиторов (ФАПЭ ЦАРЭС) при финансово технической поддержке АБР достаточно успешно продвигает процессы развития транспортных коридоров региона. Продолжающаяся пандемия COVID-19 может существенно повлиять на конечный результат экономических показателей процесса упрощения торговли. Поэтому, пользуясь данной возможностью, прошу уважаемых коллег поддержать предложение Республики Таджикистан относительно продолжения оказания технической помощи ФАПЭ-ЦАРЭС со стороны наших уважаемых партнеров по развитию (прежде всего Азиатского Банка Развития) на основе соответствующих партнерских отношений.

Мы уверены, что деятельность этого года усилит характеристику ЦАРЭС как программы, ориентированной на результаты, и даст новый импульс для повышения дальнейшего интереса и увеличенную поддержку со стороны многосторонних институтов.

Пользуясь случаем, хотел бы от имени делегации Республики Таджикистан еще раз подтвердить нашу полную поддержку Программе ЦАРЭС. Мы будем продолжать взаимодействие со всеми странами-участницами Программы и партнерами по развитию на основе принципов равенства и общих интересов для реализации нашего долгосрочного видения регионального сотрудничества – Хорошие соседи, Хорошие партнеры, Хорошие перспективы.

В заключение хотел бы пожелать всем участникам 20-ой Министерской конференции успешного сотрудничества в рамках Программы ЦАРЭС, чтобы мы совместно могли с более сильных позиций принимать участие в мировой конкуренции для достижения стабильного развития экономик наших стран и улучшения благосостояния граждан региона.

Благодарю за внимание.

## **Statement by Turkmenistan**

Delivered by Mr. Muhammetgeldi Serdarov, Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy/  
CAREC National Focal

Dear Chairman,

Dear President of the Asian Development Bank,

Distinguished Participants of the Ministerial Conference,

I am sincerely pleased to welcome all participants of the 20th CAREC Ministerial Conference.

On behalf of Turkmenistan, I would like to thank the Asian Development Bank, CAREC Secretariat, and CAREC Program countries for continuous interaction and cooperation. Over the past year, important and constructive work aimed at development has been done.

Together with the line ministries and agencies, we have reviewed the prepared CAREC reporting documents for 2021 and I would like to outline the position of our country on the submitted documents:

### **1. Turkmenistan endorses the CAREC Health Strategy 2030 and notes its relevance and timeliness.**

The health of the population is the foundation of the sustainable economic growth of the country. Financing health care should be aimed at ensuring equality, fairness, and sustainability. Cross-sectoral investments for health not only free up new resources for health but also multiply the benefits and advantages, contributing, in the long run, to overall economic and social development.

Outcomes-based investment improves health and identifies resources that can be unleashed to meet the growing demands placed on the health system. An integrated approach characterized by a combination of health promotion, disease prevention, and treatment is indispensable to reduce the prevalence of infectious diseases.

The improvement and maintenance of basic hygiene, water quality, and food safety are vital, as are the sustainability and effectiveness of vaccine prevention (immunization) programs and appropriately designed and targeted treatment plans and programs. The fight against infectious diseases should be aimed at reducing their prevalence and then eliminating them completely or partially.

In this regard, Turkmenistan supports the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO) Methodological Center for Treatment and Prevention of Acute Infections and the Central Asian Regional Center of Epidemiology, Virology, and Bacteriology.

## **2. Turkmenistan endorses the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030.**

In today's world, the level of development of digital technologies plays a decisive role in the competitiveness and increasing economic potential of CAREC countries. The transition to the digital economy is one of the key drivers of economic growth. It is encouraging to note that in recent years the countries of the region have recorded tangible progress in many areas of digital development.

The promising outlook and relevance of the digital development of the economies of the CAREC region are reflected in the main directions of the Digital Strategy 2030. Harmonization of efforts in the joint implementation of initiatives and projects of the Digital Agenda will expand the opportunities for the countries of the region, citizens, and economic entities both within the region and foreign markets.

The effectiveness of joint actions by the countries of the region within the Digital Agenda depends on the successful development of national economies. The implementation of the Digital Agenda will require the creation of expert platforms, a network of competence centers, the formation of a pool of initiatives and projects, and the building of partnerships.

The deployment of the CAREC digital integration platform and ensuring interoperability between the countries of the region should be the basis for the development of the next generation of effectively interacting systems, ensuring the creation of a common digital economic space and the development of digitalization.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion, I would like to say that the endorsement of the Health Strategy and the Digital Strategy presented today will undoubtedly serve as an important basis [impetus] for implementing the goals and objectives of the CAREC 2030 Strategy, as well as for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Republic of Azerbaijan for its high level of Chairmanship this year, and the Secretariat for its active support of the work of the CAREC Program. In this difficult period, only together we will be able to overcome all difficulties with dignity and honor.

Thank you for your attention.

Уважаемый Председатель!

Уважаемый Президент Азиатского банка развития!

Уважаемые участники Министерской конференции!

Я искренне рад приветствовать всех участников 20-й Министерской конференции ЦАРЭС.

От лица Туркменистана хотел бы поблагодарить Азиатский банк развития, Секретариат ЦАРЭС и страны Программы ЦАРЭС за постоянное взаимодействие и сотрудничество. За последний год проделана важная и конструктивная работа, нацеленная на развитие.

Совместно с отраслевыми министерствами и ведомствами мы рассмотрели подготовленные отчетные документы ЦАРЭС за 2021 год и хотели бы обозначить позицию нашей страны по представленным документам:

1. Туркменистан поддерживает Стратегию ЦАРЭС в области здравоохранения до 2030 г. и отмечает, ее актуальность и своевременность.

Здоровье населения является фундаментом устойчивого экономического роста государства. Финансирование здравоохранения должно быть направлено на обеспечение равноправия, справедливости и устойчивости. Межсекторальные инвестиции на цели здравоохранения не только высвобождают новые ресурсы для здоровья, но и приумножают выгоды и преимущества, содействуя, в долгосрочной перспективе, общему экономическому и социальному развитию.

Инвестирование, ориентированное на конечные результаты, позволяет улучшать здоровье и выявлять ресурсы, которые могут быть высвобождены для удовлетворения растущих потребностей, предъявляемых системе здравоохранения.

Для уменьшения распространенности инфекционных заболеваний необходим комплексный подход, характеризующийся сочетанием укрепления здоровья, профилактики болезней и процесса лечения.

Исключительно важным фактором является улучшение и поддержание базовой гигиены, качества воды и безопасности пищевых продуктов, равно как устойчивость и эффективность программ вакцинопрофилактики (иммунизации), а также надлежащим образом составленных и сориентированных планов и программ лечения. Борьба с инфекционными болезнями должна быть направлена на сокращение их распространенности, а затем на полную либо частичную их ликвидацию.

В связи с этим, Туркменистан выступает за создание Методического центра Всемирной Организации Здравоохранения по лечению и профилактике острых инфекций, а также Центральноазиатского регионального центра эпидемиологии, вирусологии и бактериологии.

2. Туркменистан поддерживает Цифровую стратегию ЦАРЭС до 2030 года.

В современном мире уровень развития цифровых технологий играет определяющую роль в конкурентоспособности и повышении экономического потенциала стран региона ЦАРЭС. Переход к цифровой экономике – это одна из ключевых движущих сил экономического роста. Отрадно отметить, что за последние годы в странах региона зафиксирован ощутимый прогресс по многим направлениям цифрового развития.

Перспективность и актуальность цифрового развития экономик стран региона ЦАРЭС нашли отражение в основных направлениях реализации Цифровой стратегии до 2030 года. Гармонизация усилий при совместной реализации инициатив и проектов Цифровой повестки позволит расширить возможности стран региона, граждан и хозяйствующих субъектов как внутри региона, так и на внешних рынках.

Эффективность совместных действий стран региона в рамках Цифровой повестки зависит от успешного развития национальных экономик. При реализации Цифровой повестки потребуются создание экспертных площадок, сети центров компетенций, формирование пула инициатив и проектов, выстраивание партнерских связей.

Развертывание цифровой интеграционной платформы ЦАРЭС и обеспечение интероперабельности между странами региона должно стать основой для разработки следующего поколения эффективно взаимодействующих систем, обеспечивающих создание общего цифрового экономического пространства и развития цифровизации.

Уважаемые дамы и господа! В заключение, хотел бы сказать, что одобрение представленных сегодня Стратегии по здравоохранению и Цифровой Стратегии, несомненно, будут служить важной основой для реализации целей и задач Стратегии ЦАРЭС 2030, а также достижению Целей Устойчивого развития.

Пользуясь случаем, хотел бы поблагодарить Республику Азербайджан за высокий уровень Председательства в текущем году, а Секретариат – за активную поддержку работы Программы ЦАРЭС.

В этот непростой период, только сообща мы сможем достойно и с честью преодолеть все трудности.

Благодарю Вас за внимание.

## **Statement by Uzbekistan**

Delivered by Mr. Laziz Kudratov, First Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade

Dear Mr. Jabbarov, Minister of Economy of Azerbaijan,

Dear Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, ADB President,

Dear Participants of the CAREC Ministerial Conference,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, allow me to extend our warm greetings to all of you.

First of all, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan, the country chairing the CAREC events this year, the ADB leadership, and the CAREC Secretariat for the great work in preparing and holding the today's meeting.

This is the second year of CAREC working in the context of the pandemic and it has been able to develop the optimal format for its work, and coordination of cooperation with the governments of the region and international partners in the implementation of the development plans of the Program.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to our international partners who have supported the countries of the region.

The support being provided by the lead international financial institutions in the context of the pandemic is very significant in maintaining the momentum of reforms in our countries and in reducing the time for economic recovery after a slowdown in growth.

The coronavirus pandemic that broke out in 2020 and the resulting economic crisis caused serious challenges for Uzbekistan as an integral part of the region. It had a significant negative impact on the economic development indicators of Uzbekistan and created risks for economic and social transformations of the transition period.

Today we can say with good reason that our country has withstood this endurance test.

The measures taken by Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of Uzbekistan, has demonstrated an active approach to maintain the reforms momentum and reducing the time for restoring the economy and people's living standards.

The large-scale reforms carried out in the country are laying a foundation for the new stage of our development – the era of New Uzbekistan. And the development of cooperation, primarily with our neighboring countries, is an unconditional priority of our policy.

Today's realities require us to take decisive steps to form a new model of economic cooperation in Central Asia. It is important to identify new points of growth, and new long-term drivers for our development. I must say that the CAREC Program is doing a great job in this regard.

This year has been a very busy one for CAREC. We are pleased to note that this year's CAREC events have been successfully conducted online with the active participation of countries. This made it possible to prepare and submit a number of very important draft documents for consideration and approval by the current conference in a timely and complete manner.

Let me make a brief overview of the draft documents presented today.

### **CAREC Health Cooperation Strategy 2030**

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the importance of building resilient national health systems and strengthening the regional cooperation in this sector. Regional cooperation in health enables the countries to work together to combat the spread of the pandemic, strengthen health systems, improve regional health security, and achieve better health outcomes.

Uzbekistan took an active part in a number of consultations to discuss the results of the preliminary study and the preparation of the CAREC Health Cooperation Strategy 2030. Through the joint efforts of international partners and countries, work has been carried out to prepare and agree on the draft Strategy. The draft strategy includes comments and suggestions from countries and development partners.

The Uzbek side supports the overall vision of the strategy that the public health threats in the CAREC region should be resolved comprehensively, effectively and sustainably through adoption of a regional approach while meeting the needs of the most vulnerable segments of the population.

We endorse this draft strategy and will actively participate in its implementation. The approval of this strategy will provide the basis for the preparation and adoption of the Regional Investment Framework in this area in 2022.

### **CAREC Digital Strategy 2030**

In our country, comprehensive measures are being implemented for the active development of the digital economy, widespread introduction of modern information and communication technologies in all sectors and areas, primarily in the public administration, education, healthcare and agriculture sectors.

In particular, the implementation of more than 220 priority projects has been launched, aiming for improvement of the e-government system, further development of the domestic market of software products and information technologies, organization of IT parks in all regions of the country, and provision of this sector with qualified manpower.

In order to accelerate the development of the digital industry in Uzbekistan, increase the competitiveness of the national economy, the Digital Uzbekistan 2030 Strategy has been adopted.

In the context of the consequences of the pandemic, the search for new areas to strengthen regional cooperation, the Uzbek side fully supported the ADB initiative to prepare the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 and took an active part in this activity.

The endorsement and implementation of the strategy, which aims to create a common CAREC digital space, contribute to the post-pandemic recovery, will enable the countries in the region to develop reliable solutions in such important areas as health and education, agriculture, finance, trade and tourism.

The draft CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 submitted for approval has been prepared taking into account a number of discussions that were held this year with the participation of representatives of concerned ministries of the countries.

The Uzbekistan approves the draft strategy and is confident that its implementation will bring new impetus and prospects to the development of regional cooperation within CAREC.

Thank you.



Уважаемый г-н Джаббаров (Министр экономики Азербайджана)

Уважаемый г-н Масацугу Асакава (Президент АБР)

Уважаемые участники министерской конференции ЦАРЭС

Позвольте от имени делегации Республики Узбекистан сердечно приветствовать Вас всех.

Прежде всего, мы хотели бы выразить искреннюю признательность правительству Азербайджана в качестве председательствующей страны в мероприятиях ЦАРЭС в этом году, руководству АБР, Секретариату ЦАРЭС за большую работу по подготовке и проведению сегодняшнего заседания.

ЦАРЭС уже второй год работает в условиях пандемии и смогла выработать оптимальный формат своей работы, координации сотрудничества с правительствами стран региона и международными партнерами по реализации намеченных планов развития Программы.

Пользуясь возможностью, я хотел бы выразить искреннюю признательность нашим международным партнерам, оказавшим поддержку странам региона.

Поддержка, оказываемая ведущими международными финансовыми институтами в условиях пандемии, является очень существенной в сохранении динамики осуществляемых в наших странах реформ и сокращении времени для восстановления экономики после замедления темпов роста.

Начавшаяся в 2020 году пандемия коронавируса и вызванный ею экономический кризис создали серьезные проблемы для Узбекистана как неотъемлемой части региона.

Она оказала существенное негативное влияние на показатели экономического развития Узбекистана, создала риски для экономических и социальных преобразований переходного периода.

Сегодня мы с полным основанием можем сказать, что наша страна выдержала это испытание на прочность.

Меры, принятые Президентом Узбекистана Шавкатом Мирзиёевым, продемонстрировали активный подход по сохранению динамики реформ и сокращения времени для восстановления экономики и уровня жизни людей.

Проводимые в стране масштабные реформы закладывают фундамент для нового этапа нашего развития – эпохе Нового Узбекистана. И развитие сотрудничества, прежде всего с нашими соседними странами, является безусловным приоритетом нашей политики.

Сегодняшние реалии требуют от нас решительных шагов для формирования новой модели экономического сотрудничества в Центральной Азии.

Важно выявлять новые точки роста, новые драйверы нашего развития на долгосрочную перспективу.

Должен сказать, что Программа ЦАРЭС делает очень большую работу в этом плане.

Нынешний год выдался для ЦАРЭС очень насыщенным. Мы с удовлетворением хотим отметить, что все намеченные на этот год мероприятия в рамках ЦАРЭС успешно проводятся в онлайн режиме с активным участием стран.

Это позволило своевременно и в полном объеме подготовить и представить на рассмотрение и утверждение нынешней конференции ряд очень важных проектов документов.

Позвольте коротко остановиться на представленных сегодня проектах документов.

Стратегия ЦАРЭС в области сотрудничества в сфере здравоохранения до 2030 г.

Пандемия COVID-19 усилила важность формирования устойчивых национальных систем здравоохранения и укрепления регионального сотрудничества в данной сфере.

Региональное сотрудничество в сфере здравоохранения предоставляет странам возможность совместно бороться с распространением пандемии, укреплять системы здравоохранения, повышать региональную санитарно-эпидемиологическую безопасность и добиваться лучших показателей состояния здоровья.

Узбекистан принял активное участие в ряде проведенных консультациях, на которых обсуждены результаты предварительного исследования и подготовка стратегии ЦАРЭС в области здравоохранения до 2030 года.

Совместными усилиями международных партнеров и стран осуществлена работа по подготовке и согласованию проекта Стратегии.

В проект стратегии включены комментарии и предложения стран и партнеров по развитию.

Узбекская сторона поддерживает общее видение стратегии, согласно которому угрозы общественному здоровью в регионе ЦАРЭС должны решаться комплексно, эффективно и устойчиво посредством принятия регионального подхода при одновременном обеспечении потребностей наиболее уязвимых слоев населения.

Мы одобряем данный проект стратегии и будем активно участвовать в ее реализации.

Одобрение этой стратегии создаст основу для подготовки и принятия в 2022 году Региональной рамочной инвестиционной программы в этой сфере.

Цифровая стратегия ЦАРЭС до 2030 г.

В нашей стране реализуются комплексные меры по активному развитию цифровой экономики, широкому внедрению современных информационно-коммуникационных технологий во все отрасли и сферы, прежде всего, в государственное управление, образование, здравоохранение и сельское хозяйство.

В частности, начата реализация свыше 220 приоритетных проектов, предусматривающих совершенствование системы электронного правительства, дальнейшее развитие

отечественного рынка программных продуктов и информационных технологий, организацию во всех регионах республики IT-парков, обеспечение данной сферы квалифицированными кадрами.

В целях ускоренного развития цифровой индустрии в Узбекистане, повышения конкурентоспособности национальной экономики, принята Стратегия «Цифровой Узбекистан 2030».

В условиях, связанных с последствиями пандемии, поиска новых направлений укрепления регионального сотрудничества, Узбекская сторона полностью поддержала инициативу АБР по подготовке цифровой стратегии ЦАРЭС до 2030г. и приняла активное участие в этой работе.

Одобрение и реализация данной стратегии, цель которой заключается в создании общего цифрового пространства ЦАРЭС, будет способствовать восстановлению после пандемии, позволит странам региона разработать надёжные решения в таких важных областях, как здравоохранение и образование, сельское хозяйство, финансы, торговля и туризм.

Представленный для одобрения проект Цифровой стратегии ЦАРЭС 2030 подготовлен с учетом ряда обсуждений, которые были проведены в этом году с участием представителей заинтересованных министерств стран.

Узбекская сторона одобряет данный проект стратегии, и выражает уверенность, что ее реализация принесет новый импульс и перспективы в развитие регионального сотрудничества в рамках ЦАРЭС.

Спасибо за внимание.

## VIRTUAL 20th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

### Connectivity, Cooperation, and Resilience in a Digital Era

17 November 2021 (1500-1730, Manila time)

#### AGENDA

Wednesday, 17 November 2021	
1430–1500	<b>Registration</b>
1500–1730	<b>CAREC Ministerial Conference (MC)</b>
1500–1504	<p><b>Chair:</b> Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov Minister, Ministry of Economy, Republic of Azerbaijan</p> <p>Mr. Shixin Chen Vice President (Operations 1), ADB</p> <p><i>Participants: CAREC country delegations and representatives of development partner institutions.</i></p> <p><b>Special Address</b> H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (delivered by Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov, Minister, Ministry of Economy, Republic of Azerbaijan)</p>
1504–1507	<p><b>Welcome Address</b> Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov Minister, Ministry of Economy, Republic of Azerbaijan</p>
1507–1515	<p><b>Keynote Address</b> Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa President, ADB</p>
1515–1530	<p><b>Economic Recovery and Stabilization in CAREC Countries</b> Mr. Subir Lall Deputy Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department, IMF</p>
1530-1533	<p><b>Statement by Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank</b> Mr. Ludger Schuknecht Vice President and Corporate Secretary, AIIB</p>

1533-1536	<p><b>Statement by World Bank</b> Mr. Hartwig Schafer Vice President for South Asia, World Bank</p>
1536-1539	<p><b>Statement by CAREC Institute</b> Mr. Syed Shakeel Shah Director, CAREC Institute</p>
1539-1545	<p><b>2021 CAREC Documents for Endorsement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>CAREC Health Strategy 2030</i></li> <li>- <i>CAREC Digital Strategy 2030</i></li> </ul> <p><i>The CAREC Secretariat will present the strategies for Ministers' endorsement.</i></p>
1545-1715	<p><b>CAREC Ministers Endorsement</b> <i>CAREC Ministers will provide a brief statement (3 min. per country) with their insights and guidance on CAREC 2030 implementation and the endorsement of the CAREC deliverables. Development Partners will be invited to provide their views.</i></p>
1715-1720	<p><b>Consideration of the Joint Ministerial Statement</b> <i>CAREC Ministers will consider the draft Joint Ministerial Statement for endorsement</i></p>
1720-1722	<p><b>Remarks by the Government of the People's Republic of China</b> Representative from PRC</p>
1722-1730	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b> Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov Minister, Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan</p>



**VIRTUAL CAREC 20<sup>th</sup> MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
17 November 2021 (1500-1730, Manila time)**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**I. CAREC COUNTRIES**

**A. Azerbaijan**

1. Mr. Mikayil Jabbarov, Alternate Governor for Republic of Azerbaijan in the Asian Development Bank/ Minister, Ministry of Economy

**B. People's Republic of China**

2. Mr. Weiping Yu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Finance (MOF)
3. Mr. Zhijun Cheng, Deputy Director General (In Charge), Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation (DIEFC), MOF
4. Mr. Jin Lu, Deputy Director General /CAREC NFP, DIEFC, MOF
5. Mr. Shu Zhan, Division Head, DIEFC, MOF
6. Ms. Lijuan Chen, Deputy Director, DIEFC, MOF
7. Ms. Yufei Zhao, Officer, DIEFC, MOF
8. Mr. Wei Cheng, Counselor, Department of Europe and Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9. Mr. Fei Li, Deputy Director, Department of Regional Opening-Up, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC)
10. Ms. Xiuli Ren, Deputy director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
11. Ms. Min Liu, Principal Staff Member, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security
12. Mr. Jing Wang, Officer, Department of Climate, Ministry of Ecology and Environment
13. Ms. Yan Yan, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Transport
14. Ms. Xiaolin Wang, Officer, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Transport
15. Mr. Penglin Li, Deputy Head, Integrated Transport Planning Department, Transport Planning and Research Institute, Ministry of Transport
16. Mr. Hongming Wang, Director, Department of International Cooperation and Technology, Ministry of Water Resources
17. Ms. Xiaoxia Wu, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs (MARA)

18. Mr. Yang Song, Director, Department of International Trade & Economic Affairs, Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM)
19. Ms. Yuping Zhu, Deputy Director, Department of International Trade & Economic Affairs, MOFCOM
20. Ms. Minghua Ren, Deputy Director, Department of International Trade & Economic Affairs, MOFCOM
21. Mr. Lixin Han, Director, Department of International Exchanges and Cooperation, Ministry of Culture and Tourism (MOCT)
22. Ms. Meng Shao, Director, Division of Asia-Pacific, Department of International Cooperation, NHC
23. Mr. Zhiwen She, Deputy Director, Department of International Cooperation, NHC
24. Ms. Xin Zhao, Director, General Office, National Healthcare Security Administration
25. Mr. Jie Wu, Director, International Department, China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission
26. Mr. Fagen Zhu, Director, International Department, China Securities Regulatory Commission
27. Ms. Xue Feng, officer, International Department, China Securities Regulatory Commission
28. Mr. Jun Wang, Director, Department of International Cooperation, National Energy Administration (NEA)
29. Mr. Wenchang Cai, Director, Department of International Cooperation, National Energy Administration (NEA)
30. Mr. Hong Gao, Director of the International Cooperation Office, General Department, National Railway Administration
31. Ms. Shuxian Shen, Officer of the International Cooperation Office, General Department, National Railway Administration
32. Mr. Xin Miao, Deputy Director, Department of International Affairs, Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC)
33. Mr. Gang Li, Deputy Director, Department of Science, Technology and International Cooperation National Medical Products Administration
34. Mr. ling Cai, Director, Division of Europe, Liaison Department, All-China Women's Federation
35. Ms. Yana Mali, Officer, Liaison Department, All-China Women's Federation
36. Mr. Bing Wu, Deputy Director, Finance Department, Inner Mongolia
37. Ms. Ni Fu, Principal Staff Member, Finance Department, Inner Mongolia
38. Mr. Nian Zhu, Deputy Director-General, Finance Department, Xinjiang
39. Mr. Xirong Bai, Director, Finance Department, Xinjiang
40. Ms. Xiaoqian Jia, Principal Staff Member, Finance Department, Xinjiang

### **C. Georgia**

41. Ms. Natela Turnava, Alternate Governor for Georgia at the Asian Development Bank/Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (MOESD)
42. Mr. Genadi Arveladze, Deputy Minister, MOESD/ CAREC National Focal Point
43. Ms. Mariam Gabunia, CAREC Trade Policy Focal, Head, International Trade Policy Department, MOESD

#### **D. Kazakhstan**

44. Mr. Alibek Kuantyrov, Vice-Minister, Ministry of National Economy/ CAREC National Focal Point

#### **E. Kyrgyz Republic**

45. Mr. Eldar Alisherov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce

#### **F. Mongolia**

46. Mr. Narantsogt Sanjaa, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance

47. Mr. Batkhoo Idesh, Director General, Development Financing Department, Ministry of Finance/ CAREC National Focal Point

#### **G. Pakistan**

48. Mr. Mian Asad Hayauddin, Secretary Economic Affairs Division and ADB Alternate Governor

#### **H. Tajikistan**

49. Mr. Nematullo Hikmatullozoda, Assistant to the President of Tajikistan on Economic Issues, Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan/ CAREC National Focal Point

50. Mr. Rahim Bobozoda, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transport, Sectoral Focal Point

51. Mr. Gafur Muhsinzoda, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Health Strategy Focal Point

52. Mr. Abdurahmon Abdurahmonzoda, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Sectoral Focal Point

53. Mr. Azim Tursunzoda, First Deputy Chairman, Customs Service under the Government, Sectoral Focal Point

54. Mr. Manuchehr Safarzoda, Head of Department, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, Sectoral Focal Point

55. Mr. Abdulvorisi Vafo, Head of Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Digital Strategy Focal Point

#### **I. Turkmenistan**

56. Mr. Muhammetgeldi Serdarov, Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy/ CAREC National Focal Point

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59. Mr. Ata Chapayev, Senior Specialist, International Division, Public Finance and Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy

60. Mr. Nurmyrat Rejepov, Deputy Chairman, Turkmenaragatnashyk agency

61. Mr. Pena Sukhanberdiyev, Head, Division for Development of Digital Economy, "Turkmenaragatnashyk" agency



- 62. Ms. Altyn Atayeva, Deputy Medical Director of the Hospital with Research and Clinical Center of Cardiology, Ministry of Healthcare and Medical Industry
- 63. Mr. Muhammet Muhammedov, Deputy Director for Organizational and Methodological Work, Infectious Disease Centers Administration, Ministry of Healthcare and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan

#### **J. Uzbekistan**

- 64. Mr. Laziz Kudratov, First Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade
- 65. Mr. Shukhrat Vafaev, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade (MIFT)/ CAREC National Focal Point
- 66. Mr. Oybek Shagazatov, Head, Department for cooperation with IFIs, MIFT

## **II. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

### **A. Agence Française De Développement**

- 67. Ms. Cécile Couprie, Regional Director for EURASIA
- 68. Mr. Sertaç Turhal, Senior Regional Expert
- 69. Mr. Raphaël Jozan, Director for South Caucasus
- 70. Mr. Olivier Najar, Economist
- 71. Mr. Tom Pougnet, Project officer at AFD Regional Directorate for Eurasia

### **B. Asian Development Bank**

- 72. Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, President
- 73. Mr. Shixin Chen, Vice President (Operations 1)
- 74. Mr. Aiming Zhou, Senior Advisor to the Vice President
- 75. Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD)
- 76. Ms. M. Teresa Kho, Director General, East Asia Department (EARD)
- 77. Mr. Nianshan Zhang, Deputy Director General, CWRD
- 78. Ms. Cleo Kawawaki, Senior Advisor, CWRD
- 79. Mr. Safdar Parvez, Advisor, EARD
- 80. Ms. Emma Fan, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, & Regional Cooperation Division (EAPF), EARD
- 81. Mr. Alain Borghijs, Officer in Charge, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division (CWRC), CWRD
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- 83. Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, EAPF
- 84. Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, EAPF
- 85. Ms. Xinglan Hu, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
- 86. Mr. Seung Min Lee, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
- 87. Ms. Carmen Garcia Perez, Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
- 88. Ms. Ramola Naik Singru, Senior Urban Development Specialist, CWUW
- 89. Ms. Sarin Abado, Energy Specialist, CWEN
- 90. Ms. Kirthi Ramesh, Social Sector Specialist, CWSS
- 91. Mr. Jurgen Sluijter, Senior Transport Specialist, CWTC

- 92. Mr. Oleg Samukhin, Senior Transport Specialist, CWTC
- 93. Ms. Ritu Mishra, Young Professional, CWTC
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- 98. Ms. Mary Ann Magadia, Programs Analyst, CWRD
- 99. Ms. Licel Calderon-Tanquintic, Senior Operations Assistant, CWRC
- 100. Mr. Vishal Aditya Potluri, Young Professional, CWRC

**C. Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)**

- 101. Mr. Sonobe Tetsushi, Dean
- 102. Dr. Yixin Yao, senior research fellow, ADBI
- 103. Dr. Peter J. Morgan, Senior Consulting Economist, Vice Chair, ADBI
- 104. Ms. Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow

**D. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**

- 105. Mr. Ludger Schuknecht, Vice President and Corporate Secretary
- 106. Ms. Supee Teravaninthorn, Director General, Infrastructure Investment Department Region 2
- 107. Ms. Monisha Hermans, Senior Secretariat Officer, Corporate Secretary Vice Presidency
- 108. Mr. Hong Wei, Senior Advisor to the Vice President of Investment Operations Region 2
- 109. Mr. Emil Zalinyan, Infrastructure Sector Economist, Infrastructure Investment Department Region 2
- 110. Mr. Zacharias Ziegelhöfer, Infrastructure Sector Economist, Infrastructure Investment Department Region 2
- 111. Mr. Runze Yu, Investment Operations Specialist-Transport, Infrastructure Investment Department Region 2
- 112. Mr. Komron Rajabiyon, Investment Associate, Infrastructure Investment Department Region 2
- 113. Mr. Masato Nakane, Senior Investment Operations Specialist, Social Infrastructure Department
- 114. Mr. Yuanjiang Sun, Manager of Partnerships and Regional Cooperation, Strategy, Policy and Budget Department
- 115. Mr. Bin Wang, Senior Policy and Strategy Officer, Strategy, Policy and Budget Department
- 116. Mr. Kazuhiro Nomoto, Partnership Officer, Strategy, Policy and Budget Department
- 117. Ms. Mehek Marwaha, Investment Operations Specialist, Infrastructure Investment Department Region 2

**E. CAREC Institute (CI)**

- 118. Mr. Syed Shakeel Shah, Director
- 119. Dr. Ziqian Liang, Deputy Director 1
- 120. Dr. Iskandar Abullayev, Deputy Director 2
- 121. Dr. Hans Holzhaecker, Chief Economist
- 122. Dr. Qaisar Abba, Chief Research Division
- 123. Mr. Khalid Umar, Chief Strategic Planning Division
- 124. Mr. Eisa Khan Ayoob Ayoobi, Chief of Capacity Building

125. Ms. Alina Bai, Chief of HR & Finance  
126. Ms. Fan Wang, Chief of Administration

**F. CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations (CFCFA)**

127. Mr. Makhmadali Shokirov, Chairperson

**G. European Union External Action (EEAS)**

128. Mr. Marcin Kacperek, Policy Officer

**H. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)**

129. Ms. Zsuzsanna Hargitai, Managing Director Central Asia  
130. Mr. Alkis Drakinos, Head of EBRD in Uzbekistan

**I. Eurasian Development Bank (EDB)**

131. Mr. Sergey Vasiliev, Vice Chairman of the Management Board  
132. Ms. Farida Metalevel, Director for Cooperation with International Financial Institutions  
133. Mr. Leonid Efimov, Head of International Relations and Protocol Division

**J. Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD)**

134. Mr. Andrey Shirokov, Managing Director  
135. Mr. Gennady Vasiliev, Head of Partner Relation

**K. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) (formerly DFID)**

136. Mirza Jahani, Development Director for Central Asia

**L. International Monetary Fund (IMF)**

137. Mr. Subir Lall, Deputy Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department  
138. Mr. Ron van Rooden, Assistant Director, Middle East and Central Asia Department  
139. Mr. Nikoloz Gigineishvili, Deputy Division Chief, Middle East and Central Asia Department  
140. Mr. Kevin Ross, Senior Economist, Middle East and Central Asia Department  
141. Mr. Omer Bayar, Economist, Middle East and Central Asia Department  
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143. Mr. Anasse Aissami, Chief Operation Officer

**N. Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

144. Mr. Tokuda Shuichi, Deputy Assistant Minister and Deputy Director-General, European Affairs Bureau as well as Ambassador and Special Representative for Central Asia

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145. Ms. Vanessa Schmidli, Programme Manager, Multilateral Cooperation

**P. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

146. Mr. Ben Slay, UNDP Senior Economist

**Q. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

147. Mr. Alexandros Makarigakis, Head of UNESCO Tashkent Office

**R. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)**

148. Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-charge, Subregional Office for North and Central Asia

**S. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**

149. Mr. Ciyong Zou, Managing Director, Directorate of Programmes, Partnerships and Field Coordination

**T. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

150. Mr. Patrick Meyer, Energy Advisor

151. Mr. Kevin Adkin, Regional Environment Specialist

**C. United States Department of State**

152. Mr. Lesslie C. Viguerie, Deputy Assistant Secretary (DAS), Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs

153. Dr. Ellen Connorton, Senior Science Advisor, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs

154. Mr. John Keeton, Foreign Affairs Officer, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs

**U. World Bank**

155. Mr. Hartwig Schafer, Vice President for South Asia

156. Ms. Tatiana Proskuryakova, Regional Director for Central Asia

157. Ms. Cecile Fruman, Director, Regional Integration and Engagement

158. Mr. Sascha Djumena, Country Program Coordinator for Central Asia (ECA)

159. Ms. Mandakini Kaul, Regional Coordinator

160. Mr. Ilias Skamnelos, Practice Manager, Europe and Central Asia

161. Mr. Martin Melecky, Lead Economist Working on Financial Issues in Central Asia

162. Ms. Mariana De Paiva Dias

**V. World Health Organization (WHO)**

163. Ms. Svenja Hermann

164. Dr. Bahtygul Karriyeva, Strategic Desk Officer (Strategic Planning), Division of Country Support, Emergency Preparedness and Response (CSE)/Intelligence and Strategies for Delivery (ISD), World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe

#### **W. World Trade Organization**

165. Mr. Samer Seif El Yazal, Head of the CEECAC Desk, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

166. Mr. Ali Usman-Khilji, Head of the Asia-Pacific Desk, Institute for Training and Technical Cooperation

### **III. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

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