

CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM
21st MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
24th November 2022 (1500-1730, Manila Time)

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

I. Introduction

1. Ministers and senior officials from member countries of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program and senior representatives from Development Partners (DPs) attended the 21st Ministerial Conference (MC) on 24th November 2022. Mr. Liu Kun, Minister of Finance of the People's Republic of China (PRC), delivered the welcome address, while Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa delivered the keynote address. Mr. Xia Xiande, Deputy Minister of Finance of PRC, and Mr. Chen Shixin, Vice President (Operations 1) of ADB, co-chaired the event. The MC considered and endorsed the "CAREC Post-Pandemic Framework for Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery," "Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region," and "CAREC Green Energy Alliance." Ministers also endorsed the Joint Ministerial Statement, which summarizes the recent progress in the CAREC Program. The MC included a presentation by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the regional economic outlook, and statements by DPs. The statements of Mr. Liu, Mr. Asakawa, and Mr. Xia are in Appendix 1. The Joint Ministerial Statement, member countries' statements, event agenda, and the list of participants are in Appendix 2, 3, 4, and 5, respectively.

II. Highlights of the 21st Ministerial Conference

2. **Inaugural Session.** In his welcome address, Mr. Liu recognized the Program's contributions in promoting regional connectivity and shared prosperity. The Minister highlighted the importance of upholding true multilateralism, enhancing mutual trust, deepening policy coordination and pragmatic regional cooperation and integration for a green, sustainable, and inclusive development. Mr. Asakawa, in his keynote address, likewise acknowledged how the Program has demonstrated great success in promoting cooperation among member countries. The President reaffirmed ADB's commitment and support for the Program and in assisting member countries on pandemic recovery, food security, and climate change. He also emphasized the key roles of CAREC deliverables in helping the region achieve a greener, more resilient, and inclusive future.

3. **Regional Economic Outlook on CAREC Countries (by IMF).** Mr. Subir Lall, Deputy Director of IMF's Middle East and Central Asia Department, presented the regional economic outlook on CAREC member countries, focusing on recent geopolitical challenges. Mr. Lall explained that the impact of these challenges on the economy of the region is milder than expected. Real GDP growth projections for CAREC member countries in 2022 increased because of the countries' strong economic resilience and the accelerated performance of the export

industry. In addition, fiscal balances have varied, and public debt is projected to decline in most member countries; cross-border flows have increased, currencies have recovered, and sovereign spreads have narrowed. However, Mr. Lall noted that risks and policy challenges remain. The global financial conditions have tightened sharply, and inflation in CAREC countries has become more persistent. Other challenges include rising commodity prices and a potential decline in remittances from Russia, which could exacerbate poverty. Mr. Lall stressed that policy priorities should be tailored to tackle near-term country challenges. Key suggestions include tightening monetary policy; using temporary and targeted cash transfers to lessen the impact on the vulnerable; prioritizing expenditure and reining in inefficient fiscal outlays; and improving access to fertilizers, as needed, and investing in climate-resilient agriculture.

4. **2022 CAREC Deliverables for Endorsement.** Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General of ADB's Central and West Asia Department, presented the achievements of CAREC over the last 22 years, and the Program's main policy commitments, including the "CAREC Post-Pandemic Framework for Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery," "Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security, and the "CAREC Green Energy Alliance" in a video format¹. The Ministers unanimously endorsed these deliverables. They expressed optimism that the deliverables will achieve positive and practical results and inject new impetus into CAREC cooperation while supporting the urgent needs of the region, such as pandemic recovery, agricultural development, food security, green energy transition, and climate change.

5. The Ministers recognized CAREC's active promotion of regional cooperation and integration and its significant contributions in advancing connectivity and shared prosperity, corresponding to national, regional, and global priorities. The Ministers also committed to a closer policy coordination and stronger cooperation amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic, geopolitical tensions, and climate change. In addition, they highlighted the importance of digitalization, innovation, and investment for green, sustainable, and inclusive development, as well as joint efforts for the implementation of CAREC 2030. They thanked DPs for supporting the member countries of CAREC in achieving a synergistic development.

6. **Partners' Statements on Confirming Support for the CAREC Program.** Several DPs submitted written statements confirming their support for the CAREC Program. They also shared their statements during the Conference.

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) reaffirmed its continued support for CAREC's commitment to ensuring green, sustainable, and inclusive recovery for its member countries. AIIB shared its new and flagship green initiatives, such as the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) and the Energy Transition Accelerator Financing Platform (ETAF) which will increase energy efficiency. AIIB also emphasized the importance of cross-border connectivity.
- The CAREC Institute (CI) shared its achievements and progress on knowledge activities for the CAREC 2030 and the CAREC deliverables such as the "Post-Pandemic

¹ Video links: [CAREC Achievements Highlights](#), [CAREC 2022 Major Deliverables](#).

Framework for Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery" and "Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security." CI emphasized that its financial sustainability needs to be ensured through the financial contribution of member countries in order to expand its operations and continuously fulfill its mandate as the knowledge arm of the CAREC Program.

- The Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) highlighted the importance of a stronger consensus on green growth and climate-resilient development cooperation for sustainable development. ECO identified focused areas, such as trade and investment liberalization and facilitation through boosting connectivity, industrialization, digitization, low-carbon development, and agricultural modernization. ECO reaffirmed its commitment to knowledge sharing and enhanced partnership with the CAREC Program.
- The Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD) is committed to CAREC's operational clusters, including energy, transport, water, healthcare, and economic and financial stability sectors. At the infrastructure level, EFSD shares the CAREC's prioritization for the development of transport corridors and water and energy infrastructure, which are also prioritized in the EFSD strategy for financing.
- The Government of Japan (Japan) stated that it fully supports the determination of CAREC member countries to seek sustainable development with international partners. Japan highlighted that regional cooperation is a key to address challenges in the CAREC region in resonance with the Program's approach.
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) emphasized that climate change is one of the world's greatest challenges today. UNECE stated that the MC's theme, "Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery," is timely and fully aligns with its recent work on climate change. UNECE highlighted that a collective response at the global, regional, and national levels is crucial in tackling climate change.
- The United States of America (USA) stated that it is committed to supporting CAREC's efforts to improve the region's sustainability and applauded the Program's focus on agricultural development, green energy, and addressing climate change as crosscutting themes under the 2030 agenda. The USA also highlighted that it continues to support policies and programs that help make the CAREC vision sustainable.
- The World Bank (WB) reaffirmed its commitment to cooperation with CAREC and its support for the Program's initiatives on green, sustainable, and inclusive recovery. WB emphasized that closer regional cooperation is critical for economic recovery and sustainable growth, especially in the current geopolitical setting. WB also highlighted that better regional connectivity is an essential prerequisite for the efficiency of investments in the region.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) thanked the CAREC Program for bringing new members, fresh perspectives, and dynamism to the multilateral trading system. WTO also highlighted the importance of WTO accessions which can provide a solid framework for more open, transparent, and predictable trade and investment relations in the region.

7. **Remarks by the Government of Georgia.** The Government of Georgia (Georgia) thanked the PRC for its outstanding chairmanship of the MC in 2022 and the contributions from all member countries, ADB, and development partners. Georgia expressed gratitude to serve the chairmanship for MC in 2023 and its commitment to an enhanced regional cooperation.

III. Conclusion

8. CAREC Ministers acknowledged that the 21st Ministerial Conference successfully represented this year's theme. The MC endorsed the CAREC deliverables, such as the "CAREC Post-Pandemic Framework for Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery," "Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region," and the "CAREC Green Energy Alliance." The Ministers noted that the CAREC Program is now at a new phase towards a greener, more sustainable, and inclusive development in the post-pandemic era. The Ministers commended the Program for the continued progress on the implementation of CAREC 2030 despite current challenges in the region. The Ministers also commended the CAREC Institute for continuously advancing its knowledge activities for regional cooperation. CAREC Ministers reaffirmed their commitment and support for the CAREC Program and for regional cooperation and integration.

9. The Ministers thanked and congratulated the PRC for successfully chairing and hosting the 21st MC. They also expressed their gratitude to ADB and development partners for providing support. The Ministers welcomed the Government of Georgia as the chair of the CAREC Program for 2023.

Welcome Address by Minister Liu Kun at the 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference

**Your excellencies, Ministers from CAREC member countries,
President Masatsugu Asakawa of the Asian Development Bank,
Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to join you all virtually. As China assumes the Chairmanship of the 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference, on behalf of the Chinese government, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Ministers from CAREC member countries, President of the Asian Development Bank, Masatsugu Asakawa, and all the distinguished guests. My sincere thanks go to ADB for the extensive preparation for this conference.

Since its establishment, CAREC has actively promoted regional cooperation and integration and made essential contributions to the promotion of connectivity and prosperity in Central Asia. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 outbreak, CAREC countries have strengthened cooperation in public health and digital economy, among other areas, and made remarkable achievements. The Chinese government highly appreciates and commends those efforts.

Now, the pandemic is still protracting, the global economic recovery is sluggish, many global challenges are becoming more prominent, and the North-South development gap is further widening. However, the new round of technological revolution and industrial innovations have brought unprecedented opportunities. The promotion of global development is an essential issue facing humanity. Against this backdrop, the Chinese President Xi Jinping has proposed the Global Development Initiative, emphasizing the need to accelerate the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and jointly promote a new phase of balanced, coordinated and inclusive global development. Strengthening regional cooperation and integration is an important means to achieve joint development. CAREC member countries should uphold multilateralism in its true sense, enhance mutual trust, build consensus and deepen cooperation, and work together with ADB, the CAREC Institute and other development partners to promote green, sustainable and inclusive post-pandemic recovery and development in the region. To this end, I would like to make three suggestions to deepen CAREC cooperation further.

First, strengthen policy coordination and promote regional economic recovery. We should strengthen macroeconomic policy dialogue and coordination, accelerate trade and investment facilitation, enhance the resilience of the regional industrial chain and supply chain, maintain stability of the regional financial system, and promote steady economic recovery and sustainable development.

Second, deepen pragmatic cooperation and enhance regional growth momentum. To meet the urgent needs of member countries and strengthen cooperation in key areas such as agriculture and food security, green energy and climate change, we should accelerate the building of economic corridors, promote the connectivity of traditional infrastructures such as railways, ports, and pipeline and grid networks, and focus on solving development bottlenecks. We should strengthen cooperation in innovative areas such as big data, cross-border e-commerce and smart manufacturing, accelerate digital transformation and build up new drivers for economic growth.

Third, we should promote strategic coordination and form regional development synergies. We should strengthen the alignment of CAREC strategies with national development strategies and support member countries' respective development priorities and focuses. We encourage CAREC to work with global and regional initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative to promote synergy of development. We encourage CAREC to strengthen cooperation with development partners such as ADB, WB, AIIB and the private sector to mobilize more resources. We would like to see global and regional think tanks such as the CAREC Institute play a more important role in providing knowledge support for regional cooperation.

Dear Colleagues.

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China has been successfully concluded. China will advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts through a Chinese path to modernization. China will adhere to the fundamental national policy of opening up, persistently pursue the opening-up strategy with mutual benefit and win-win results, continuously provide new opportunities for the global communities with China's new development achievements, and promote the building of an open global economy to better benefit all peoples. Standing at a new historical juncture and facing new challenges and opportunities, China is willing to work side by side with CAREC member countries to jointly promote a green, sustainable and inclusive post-pandemic economic recovery in the CAREC region and beyond.

Thank you all!

Welcome Address by Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, ADB President

Introduction

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honored to join you today for this CAREC Program Ministerial Conference. I thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting this year's conference.

CAREC has demonstrated great success in promoting cooperation across the region. ADB is proud to support the Program. We are committed to helping our developing member countries tackle the challenges they face —including recovery from the pandemic, food security, and climate change.

Priorities for green, sustainable, and inclusive recovery

Let me highlight a few key areas where we should focus our efforts — in line with the theme of this conference: Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery.

First, we need to strengthen economies as they emerge from the pandemic. Technological innovation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and green growth are crucial.

CAREC's Post-Pandemic Framework for Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery¹ lays out a path to achieve this.

Second, we need to address food insecurity, which threatens to reverse decades of social and economic progress — especially for poor and vulnerable groups.

CAREC's Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security² is a welcome step toward building a productive and sustainable agriculture sector.

ADB supports these efforts, and we aim to provide \$14 billion to strengthen food security in Asia and the Pacific between 2022 to 2025. Our Building Resilience with Active Countercyclical Expenditures — or BRACE — programs are also helping our members cope with external shocks.

Under ADB's Countercyclical Support Facility, we recently approved:

- \$100 million in support to Mongolia;
- \$500 million to Uzbekistan,
- \$1.5 billion to Pakistan,
- \$50 million to Tajikistan,
- \$50 million to the Kyrgyz Republic.

Third, we need to mobilize investments in renewable energy, and energy efficiency.

I would like to highlight the Green Energy Alliance³ for its proposals on this important aspect of the climate agenda.

ADB is supporting a just energy transition — through innovative platforms such as our Energy Transition Mechanism, ETM, and our ambition to provide \$100 billion in cumulative climate financing to Asia and the Pacific between 2019 and 2030.

Closing

Honorable Ministers, let me close by encouraging you to continue strengthen collaboration in these areas — so that we can tackle the challenges to recovery.

Our commitment to work together through platforms like CAREC offers us a promising path to a greener, more resilient, and inclusive future for the region.

I wish you a successful conference.

**Closing Remarks by Mr. Xia Xiande, Deputy Minister of Finance,
People's Republic of China**

Today, CAREC Ministers and development partners gathered to discuss the common challenges faced by CAREC countries and the future direction of cooperation, and important consensus was reached.

The Conference considered and endorsed the Joint Ministerial Statement, which summarizes the recent progress in CAREC cooperation; the CAREC Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery was adopted, which provides a policy reference for member countries to strengthen policy coordination and promote economic recovery; The Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region was reviewed and adopted, which sets out the priorities and direction for cooperation in promoting regional agricultural development and maintaining food security; the CAREC Green Energy Alliance was reviewed and approved, which proposes to establish a CAREC green energy project investment and financing platform to promote green and low-carbon transition.

These achievements fully demonstrate the confidence and determination of CAREC countries to deepen cooperation and seek joint development and will undoubtedly inject new development impetus into the CAREC region.

Going forward, CAREC countries should actively implement the deliverables of this Conference, further unleash the development potential of the CAREC region, and jointly contribute to achieving a green, sustainable and inclusive recovery in the CAREC region.

Last but not least, I would like to thank all the CAREC Ministers, ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa, ADB Vice President Chen Shixin, and representatives of CAREC Institute, the World Bank, AIIB, and other development partners for attending the Conference. Once again, great thanks go to ADB for its tremendous efforts in organizing this Conference. I look forward to meeting you again during Georgia's presidency next year!

If there is no other business, I declare the 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference closed!

**Joint Ministerial Statement
21st Ministerial Conference on
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
24 November 2022**

Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery

Representing the Governments of Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, Ministers adopted the following statement at the conclusion of the 21st Ministerial Meeting on Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) held in virtual mode on 24 November 2022.

I. Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery

The 21st Ministerial Conference marks a significant watershed in CAREC's over two decades of promoting shared and sustainable development in the wake of immense challenges in the region posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and recent geopolitical conflicts. Indeed, the pandemic showed that health shocks can have large macroeconomic impacts with significant social costs. However, we note that the crisis also provided opportunities to refocus and reinvigorate our efforts on regional development. We reiterated our resolve by committing to the *CAREC Post-pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery*. Based on the Framework, we will push productivity through digitalization, innovation and investment, achieve green growth through climate action, sustainable agriculture and energy transition, and promote inclusiveness through social protection, gender, education and health. We encourage the CAREC program to strengthen coordination with other global and regional initiatives and organizations, including the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Global Development Initiative (GDI), United Nations Special Program for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECAs), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), among others. We commend the CAREC Program for continuing to adapt to the changing times and diligently pursuing innovations to address the needs of member countries in current circumstances.

II. Continued Progress on Implementation of CAREC 2030 Economic and Financial Stability Cluster

We welcome the continuous efforts of the CAREC program to promote regional cooperation through high-level policy dialogue and knowledge sharing among member countries on key aspects of economic and financial stability, macroeconomic policy, including increasing access of small businesses to financial services, in close coordination with other leading international and regional development partners. We believe that the high-level forums and meetings organized by CAREC serve as guidance and support platforms to unlock sustainable and inclusive growth opportunities amid recent challenges. Sector-based studies and technical assistance projects initiated during the year will continue providing necessary data-informed policy options for member countries to take effective measures in achieving and maintaining economic and financial stability.

Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridor Cluster

- **On trade.** We are pleased to acknowledge the tireless efforts of the CAREC Program in supporting member countries adopt effective policies and develop improved institutional arrangements for better trading opportunities. We welcome the progress made on studies on moving towards a CAREC free trade agreement (FTA) and extend our congratulations on the successful convention of the Inaugural CAREC Digital Trade Forum. Other featured activities included aiding some member countries' accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and mainstreaming the trading principles of WTO in regional trade, developing e-commerce and digital trade, including e-phytosanitary solutions, and expansion and effective implementation of FTAs in the region, among many other important interventions. CAREC has been generating numerous data-informed analytical work to support trade facilitation policies with reliable evidence.
- **On tourism.** Tourism was one of the most affected sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Against this backdrop, the CAREC program actively pursued its planned activities to help member countries create an enabling environment to acquire more economic gains from the tourism sector through better connectivity and infrastructure projects under the CAREC Tourism Strategy 2030 endorsed in 2020.
- **On economic corridors.** We are pleased to see the steady progress in developing economic corridors in the region. The multisectoral spatial connectivity approach adopted by CAREC explores meaningful cooperation and closing regulatory and infrastructure gaps. The Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor is expanding its operational scope to tackle new challenges brought by climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. Prefeasibility studies on specific projects for cross-border economic cooperation under the Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor initiative are ongoing.
- We reaffirm the priority of the CAREC program on developing corridors that have fostered connectivity among member countries for more than a decade and recalling the global events that created new opportunities for the East-West route, we recognize that the increased interest in the Middle Corridor will not only promote regional cooperation but will have a triggering impact on the development of the Second CAREC Corridor, the Europe—Mediterranean—East Asia. We also recognize that strengthening trade, investment and economic cooperation along this Corridor will continue to promote effective and advanced implementation of the CAREC Strategy 2030 in conjunction with the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030.

Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity Cluster

- **On transport.** We appreciate the CAREC Program's continuous support in various aspects of transport sector development in member countries. Evidence-based analytics, capacity development, and implementation of technical assistance projects in vital sub-sectors such as cross-border transport and logistics facilitation, railways, and aviation transport provided the necessary assistance in building effective policy making in member countries. Training workshops on road safety and road asset management systems have been successfully completed and were all arranged and conducted virtually. We welcome the successful completion of a special report on Road Asset Management and performance-based road management contracts, the

CAREC railway sector assessments, CAREC road safety report card, and the CAREC Road Safety Engineering Manual on Star Ratings for Road Safety Audit as well as the overall implementation of the CAREC Transport Strategy 2030.

- **On energy.** We congratulate the CAREC Program on the successful organization of two new flagship forums: the *2021 CAREC Energy Investment Forum – Investing in Energy Efficiency* and the *1st CAREC Women in Energy Summit – Equal by 2030 – Time for Change*. These initiatives are important new additions to a large set of activities already being implemented under the energy sector development sub-cluster. We were pleased to know that the CAREC Energy web platform was launched to increase the knowledge dissemination on CAREC activities in energy among different stakeholders. We endorse the *CAREC Green Energy Alliance*, an important initiative to boost renewable energy development in the region to meet our Nationally Determined Contributions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and build national capacities in clean energy generation.

CAREC Regional Infrastructure Projects Enabling Facility (RIPEF)

- We note the CAREC program committed to exploring a regional project preparation support mechanism to reduce regional infrastructure financing gaps and strengthen the development capacities of member countries. The development of the RIPEF concept is in progress, and a series of consultations with ADB's internal counterparts, development partners, potential donors, and CAREC stakeholders are being undertaken in 2022.

Agriculture and Water Cluster

- **On agriculture.** We welcome the efforts of the CAREC Program for timely initiation of analytical work on agriculture and food security in view of the recent developments and emerging issues in the global food supply. We endorse the *Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region*. We believe that this cooperation framework builds a solid foundation for a regional partnership where countries are enjoined to work together to improve agricultural production towards the path to achieving food security.
- **On Water.** We note the successful completion of the CAREC Water Pillar Scoping Report, which provided important insights both for the CAREC program and member countries in pursuing evidence-based policies for climate change adaptation and the development of a framework for the Water Pillar. The framework will focus on (1) climate resilient and productive water systems, (2) sustainable water resources and water services, and (3) nexus solutions and cross- sector learning. Analytical work will gradually include countries beyond Central Asia.

Human Development Cluster

- We are pleased to see the ongoing implementation of the CAREC Health Strategy. Several webinars and knowledge-sharing events on improving the healthcare system and health cooperation provided valuable information for policymakers and practitioners to properly address public health emergencies during pandemics and improve the countries' preparedness for future disease outbreaks. A Regional

Implementation Framework (RIF) is currently being developed to identify areas and projects for implementation based on the strategic recommendations.

Regional Aspects to Address Climate Change

- We celebrate the completion of the study titled *Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change as a Cross-Cutting Theme under CAREC 2030*. Through the study, we explored a comprehensive range of climate change issues based on an in-depth review of the literature and intensive consultations with experts and practitioners; took stock of the CAREC Program's and the CAREC Institute's strategy and knowledge work and of CAREC investment projects in support of climate action; and considered how CAREC and the CAREC Institute can best support addressing the most important climate change challenges and opportunities through regional cooperation. We noted the valuable recommendations of the study for CAREC: to incorporate climate change as an urgent crosscutting issue in the CAREC 2030 Strategy; prepare a Climate Change Strategy for adoption by the Ministers; and establish a senior-level Steering Committee for the climate change agenda, among others.

Information, Communication, and Digital Technologies

- We note the progress made in implementing the CAREC Digital Strategy; the establishment of a Digital Strategy Steering Committee, the successful launch of the *CAREC Start-up Map and CAREC Innovation Network*, including the *CAREC University Start-up Generator project*. These initiatives aim to accelerate innovative digital entrepreneurship in the CAREC region. We believe that this will facilitate bringing diverse stakeholders in the region, boosting digital cooperation, and help make the vision of having a common CAREC Digital Space, the centerpiece of the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030, be closer to reality.

Gender

- We welcome CAREC's efforts in introducing new initiatives towards implementing CAREC Gender Strategy 2030. *The 1st meeting of the CAREC Regional Gender Expert Group and CAREC Forum on Women Economic Empowerment* were important events to discuss ways on how to encourage meaningful participation of women in economic activities, through better understanding of current opportunities and existing developmental bottlenecks. We recognize the need to further mainstream gender in the CAREC Program to ensure women's equal participation and equal enjoyment of benefits therein.

III.CAREC Institute (CI)

We note the expanded activities of CI with pride whereby they produced topical knowledge products that informed CAREC member countries and ADB activities on evidence-based policy dialogue and formulation. CI's capacity development activities are well aligned with CAREC activities in supporting its five operational clusters. CI's role as a regional knowledge sharing broker remains an asset in the CAREC system. We expect CI to further strengthen institutional capacity and improve governance, with the vision to be a leading regional knowledge institution.

IV.Conclusions and acknowledgments

We thank the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting and chairing this 21st Ministerial Conference and the Asian Development Bank for providing support. We look forward to continuing the collective journey to prosperity of our countries through regional cooperation and coming together in 2023 under the chairmanship of Georgia.

Statement by People's Republic of China

Delivered by Mr. Xia Xiande, Deputy Minister of Finance

Over the past year, all parties have worked together to actively implement the CAREC 2030 Strategy, making significant progress in enhancing infrastructure connectivity, promoting trade and investment facilitation, strengthening health cooperation, developing the digital economy, and responding to climate change, which strongly contributed to the sustainable development of the region. China highly appreciates this.

In the face of the new regional development, the theme of the Conference, "Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery", reflects the strong aspiration of all parties to deepen cooperation, jointly overcome the challenges, and strive to achieve economic recovery. Some deliverables to be endorsed at the Conference responded to the urgent needs of all parties to address development challenges. China supports this and would like to make a few suggestions and recommendations on further promoting CAREC cooperation in light of the theme and outcomes of the Conference:

First, strengthen macro policy coordination to achieve post-pandemic economic recovery. All parties should actively promote trade and investment facilitation, maintain smooth regional industrial and supply chains, promote innovation and digital economy, strengthen healthcare cooperation, and maintain regional economic and financial stability. The coordination between the CAREC mechanism and other global and regional initiatives, such as the "Belt and Road" initiative, should be strengthened to form development synergies. Cooperation with ADB, CAREC Institute, and other development partners should be deepened to mobilize more financial and intellectual support for the development of CAREC.

Second, deepen agricultural cooperation and maintain regional food security. All parties should strengthen cooperation in agricultural modernization, agricultural policies and standards, trade in agricultural products, and investment in agricultural projects, and strive to improve agricultural productivity and resilience, ensure smooth grain trade, and maintain regional food security. China has accumulated rich experience in promoting sustainable agricultural development and sustaining food security and is willing to share our knowledge and experience and cooperate in investment with other member countries through South-South cooperation and other means.

Third, develop innovative financing mechanisms to promote the green energy transition. All parties should explore establishing innovative energy financing mechanisms, mobilize more public and private sector resources to support green energy development, and promote green and low-carbon energy transition. The CAREC Green Energy Alliance should be launched as soon as possible to serve as an investment and financing platform to promote developing and implementing more green energy projects and bridge the regional green energy financing gap.

Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out that China has been upholding world peace and promoting joint development and is committed to building a community with a shared future for mankind. China is willing to enhance solidarity continuously and mutual trust with CAREC member countries, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and achieve joint development and prosperity! Thank you all!

Statement by Azerbaijan

Delivered by Mr. Samad Bashirli, Deputy Minister of Economy, CAREC National Focal Point

Honorable President Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa!
Dear Mr. Xiande Xia,
Dear Mr. Shixin Chen,
Distinguished CAREC Ministers and delegates!
Ladies and gentlemen!

In the first place, I would like to extend my sincere thankfulness to all participants and distinguished guests. It is an honor to join you at this esteemed 21st Ministerial Conference devoted to "Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery".

Taking advantage of this opportunity, let me express my deepest gratitude to the Government of People's Republic of China and Asian Development Bank for the organization of this event.

I believe that today's deliverables for endorsement will have a galvanizing impact on the joint attempts and regional cooperation initiatives to attain a green, sustainable, and inclusive recovery for the region.

The recent years have been defined by the numerous tensions that have erupted throughout the world. Whereas many of us expected growth acceleration in a post-COVID circumstances, escalated geopolitical pressures, price increases, and problems arising in the supply chain are remaining as main factors of global slow down. In this instance, assisting countries in developing coherent policies for sustainable development and implementing good practices remains critical today.

Global economic realities, in addition to the goals set for a new stage of development, require definitions of the CAREC region country's long-term development vectors corresponding to global priorities.

Azerbaijan is entering a strategic phase in this new post-pandemic and post-conflict era. In this context, acknowledging global trends and challenges, the Government of Azerbaijan sets the country's long-term development vector and pathways to socio-economic and environmental development through five corresponding national priorities for the subsequent decade. These priorities are i) a steadily growing, competitive economy; ii) a dynamic, inclusive society based on social justice; iii) competitive human capital and innovations iv) great return to the liberated territories; v) a clean environment and a country of "Green Growth".

It is significant that the CAREC Program, along with the CAREC countries, adapts its activities to new global challenges.

This year deliverables reveal plentiful background for CAREC member countries to seize the latest trends, based on the statistical data and integrated evaluation of the current situation on the implementation of sustainable development on its three dimensions. Covering the gaps in achieving sustainable development can be useful in sculpting a national base for policy-making and tailoring regional approaches for economic revival in the long term. The deliverables aim to prioritize and guide the cooperation activities related to agricultural development, to achieve a

reliable, sustainable and resilient energy market by 2030, and use the opportunities of attracting investments by setting up the future an online digital platform.

Resuming the above-mentioned, I would like to convey my appreciation to all those, who prepared and presented CAREC deliverables.

It is highly appreciated that these endorsements are well aligned with priorities to cope with the modern challenges and harmonized with the 2030 Agenda.

We see that CAREC member countries and development partners continue to undertake efficient activity towards further development and strengthening of regional cooperation and integration.

In our fast-changing world indicated deliverables' role will be regularly increased, they will support the process of relevant transformation of the region's economies, and undoubtedly will serve as efficient tools for further enhancement of regional cooperation and integration.

In the end, I would like to state that it is a remarkable opportunity to participate in such a prestigious Conference with distinguished colleagues and guests!

Statement by Georgia

Delivered by Mr. Levan Davitashvili, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development

At the outset, let me extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting and chairing this 21st Ministerial Conference. I would also like to express my gratitude to the ADB and CAREC for organizing this important event as well as convey many thanks to Honorable ministers and all the member delegations and representatives of development partner institutions for their participation.

Today's event marks a significant turning point in promoting shared and sustainable development in the wake of immense challenges in the region posed by the Pandemic and recent geopolitical conflicts. Although we witnessed large macroeconomic impacts caused by the virus, we however, have to admit that the crises provided us with new approaches and innovative ideas to refocus and reinvigorate our efforts towards accelerated regional economic development.

With newly emerged incentives and continued strong commitment we are approaching the final episode of transition from the pandemic to a new normal marked by the new CAREC post-pandemic framework for a green, sustainable and inclusive recovery. It is a framework that enables us to enhance the cooperation and productivity across the region through digitalization, innovation and investment. This will allow us to build resilience to future crises, restore trade and emerge stronger, more connected and more inclusive.

Georgia, on its part, has been hard hit by the Pandemic, however, we have managed to swiftly put the economy on its previous track and even created strong economic fundamentals for post Covid recovery and advanced the growth.

I am happy to highlight that international financial institutions have increased Georgia's growth projections. According to IMF, Georgia will ensure fastest economic growth in medium term (2022 - 2027) among regional and European countries, amounting to 5.6% (9% in 2022) supported by infrastructure spending, FDI inflows and structural reforms to increase productivity.

I would like to commend the CAREC as well as the CAREC Institute and experts for their efforts to elaborate the reports on Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery and other related documents.

These reports are very significant as they attempt to showcase the latest data and trends with the aim to help CAREC countries emerge with new ideas to reshape and redefine their national and regional policy approaches for the swift and accelerated economic recovery while bringing in much concentration on matters related to green, sustainable and inclusive development to the benefit of all CAREC members.

Georgia commends the tireless and vigorous efforts as well as the continued progress demonstrated on implementation of the CAREC 2030 Strategy. It is a very ambitious and comprehensive document covering all the trade and economic related areas reflected in the dedicated operational clusters.

Georgia supports the objectives of the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda under the Strategy 2030 which aims at assisting CAREC members integrate better into the global economy, ultimately enhancing their growth potential and improving the living standards of people in the region.

Let me further highlight the importance of CAREC Transport Strategy which aims at enhancing regional connectivity for the shared sustainable economic and social development in the CAREC region. The development of transport infrastructure is among the top priorities set by the Government of Georgia as we intend to transform Georgia into the transit corridor and logistics hub, as a centre enabling the businesses to transport and communicate swiftly throughout the two continents.

Energy sector development is also very significant. I believe that goals set by CAREC Energy Strategy 2030 will foster in achieving higher share of renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as increase energy security of the member states together with regional cooperation.

To conclude, I would like to once again express my gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China for hosting and charring this event as well as to the ADB and CAREC for providing the opportunity to attend this very important event and to all the participants for their fruitful contributions.

Statement by Kazakhstan

Delivered by Mr. Alibek Kuantyrov, Minister of National Economy and Governor for the Republic of Kazakhstan in ADB

Dear Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa!
Dear Mr. Liu Kun!
Dear colleagues!

To begin with, I would like to welcome all of you here today and express my sincere gratitude to ADB, the CAREC Secretariat and personally to Mr. Liu Kun for organizing this conference.

I am sure that the CAREC Program documents, which will be approved at the Ministerial Conference, will further extend cooperation between our countries and strengthen our relationship.

The countries of the Central Asian region have sufficient potential in all areas of the economy. For more than 20 years, the CAREC Program has achieved significant results, which plays an important role in strengthening and developing a strategic partnership between our countries.

Against the backdrop of the current geopolitical situation in the world, it is critically important to strengthen cooperation across all areas of the CAREC Program, including trade, economic corridors and transport connectivity.

There are some important topics on today's agenda of Ministerial Conference – including green, sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic.

A combination of economic, social and environmental components contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

The availability of close interrelation between three components of sustainable development gains particular relevance in modern circumstances, as well as the need to preserve limited natural resources and the transition to a "green" economy, is becoming obvious.

For Kazakhstan, the "green economy" is also very important and we are doing a significant amount of work in this area, including through the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, we believe that the CAREC framework program for a "Green", Sustainable, and Inclusive post-pandemic recovery is an important and relevant document.

In addition, it should be noted that ADB has done a lot of work in the field of green energy, and we would like to thank ADB for the formulation and approval of the CAREC Green Energy Alliance and we support the CAREC Green Energy Alliance Concept.

The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan attaches particular importance to the consistent and staged energy transition, considering the peculiarities of the energy sector of Kazakhstan.

The Head of State set a goal to achieve the carbon neutrality of our country by 2060.

As we can see all the issues discussed today are closely related and lead us to yet another important topic, the problem of climate change, which may lead to a risk of natural disasters.

Forest fires, cyclones, floods and droughts have become a new daily reality, devastating the population and causing suffering to people.

The climate of Kazakhstan, as the largest landlocked country, is changing faster than the average change in the world, which threatens our population and economy.

In this regard, we support the further implementation of the ADB Technical Assistance Project on Disaster Risk Prevention.

Another important area for CAREC countries is agriculture and food safety.

It is important to note that Kazakhstan is also moving in this direction and during this year developed a Plan for ensuring food safety in the medium term (2022–2024).

In order to develop these areas, ADB has formulated and included the measures to ensure food security and coordinated actions of all sectors of the economy, within the Draft CAREC Framework Program.

In this regard, Kazakhstan approves the Framework Cooperation Program for the development of agriculture and food security in the CAREC region.

In conclusion, I would like to note that we support the work of ADB in all areas, and approve the draft documents submitted today for consideration, and also highly appreciate the work of ADB and the CAREC secretariat in preparation of reporting documents on the progress of the CAREC Program.

Thank you for your attention.

Statement by Kyrgyz Republic

Delivered by Mr. Kanat Abdrahmanov, Vice Minister of Economy and Commerce, CAREC
National Focal Point

Dear Mr Liu,
Dear Mr. Asakawa,
Dear colleagues,

Let me greet you at the 21st Ministerial Conference of the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program.

First of all, let me express my gratitude to ADB for its comprehensive support of the Kyrgyz Republic and note the effective implementation of the CAREC program and ADB's strategic interaction with the partner countries. ADB makes a significant contribution to the development of partner countries, regional integration through the implementation of important projects in various sectors of the economy.

In recent years, development and strengthening of regional cooperation have been among the most important goals of ADB activities. It is gratifying to note that the Asian Development Bank places special emphasis on enhancing regional cooperation for sustainable and comprehensive development. It should be emphasized that the CAREC Program helps the Kyrgyz Republic and its neighbor states realize their economic potential in the region.

The current period is not the easiest for the humanity due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the geopolitical situation in the world, which have necessitated adjustments in the development of the global and national economies. Transnational trade links and supply chains were disrupted; prices for raw materials and consumer goods rose; inflation and currency fluctuations set in.

In this context, despite difficult situation, the CAREC Program continues to support the countries of the region in such areas as green economy, combating climate change, energy, transport corridors, and food security.

Let me inform you that the Kyrgyz Republic is committed to the transition to low-carbon development and achieving zero emissions by 2050 as a part of its commitment to the global fight against climate change, and is making every effort for a breakthrough transformation into a green economy. The Kyrgyz Republic with its vast water resources remains vulnerable to climate change, since food security and the energy sector are directly dependent on water resources. Today, the Cabinet of Ministers is working on the integration of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, both horizontally and vertically. Particular emphasis is placed on the energy sector, including renewable energy sources.

The Kyrgyz Republic has a lot of large and medium-sized rivers with significant hydropower potential estimated at 140-170 TWh.

The development of the energy sector has been identified as a national priority for the Kyrgyz Republic. In the future, domestically generated electricity may become one of the main export commodities.

We would like to inform you that there are currently a number of PPP project initiatives in the area of renewable energy for the creation of solar, wind power plants and small hydropower plants that are under active development.

The Kyrgyz Republic is interested in further enhancing cooperation in the area of direct investment in the energy sector, construction of hydroelectric power plants, and development of renewable energy sources. The country is ready for substantive discussions in these areas with the partner countries.

In view of above, the issues of energy efficiency and increasing the capacity of all types of renewable energy sources (RES) are of particular relevance and importance. In this regard, the establishment of the CAREC Green Energy Alliance as a digital platform should assist our countries in finding solutions for co-financing green energy projects.

Also, the CAREC scoping study of Climate Change and Regional Cooperation and Integration has re-emphasized the need for an integrated regional approach to addressing global climate change issues. In the context of achieving sustainable development, the Kyrgyz Republic primarily pays attention to the «green economy» principles as an approach that involves a significant reduction in the intensity of the use of natural resources. At the same time, the «green» financing should develop in addition to the existing instruments, and development should be achieved through incentives and a thorough assessment of the actual contribution of the entire range of low-carbon technologies to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

I would like to note that we fully support the draft CAREC Framework for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Post-Pandemic Recovery and want to assure that we will provide full support in the process of its implementation.

We also have high hopes that the adoption of the Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC region will help our region significantly improve the level of food security, accelerate the modernization of agriculture, create prerequisites for reducing the adverse impact on the environment and increasing the level of protection of ecosystems. The fundamental transformation of the food and agricultural systems of our region is the need and demand of today, and this requires large-scale cooperation at the regional level. One of the vivid examples of regional projects is the joint project of ADB, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan to build an agro-logistics center between the two countries under the CAREC Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor development program. This project will contribute to the growth of trade, stabilization of prices in domestic markets, growth of exports, as well as compliance with food safety standards.

Dear participants of the conference,

As you know, today the countries of the Central Asian region are going through a difficult period in economic development.

Our country is ready for mutually beneficial and multi-vector cooperation with every stakeholder in all areas, especially on the green agenda.

In conclusion, let me once again thank ADB for supporting the efforts of the Kyrgyz Republic in its transition to sustainable economic development, and express hope for further mutually beneficial cooperation!

Thank you!

Statement by Mongolia

Delivered by Mr. Batjargal Khandjav, State Secretary of Ministry of Economy and Development

Dear Minister Kun Liu (People's Republic of China, Minister of Finance)
Dear President, Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa (ADB President),
Honorable Ministers and Heads of delegations,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Minister of Economy and Development of Mongolia I am pleased to join the 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference. I would like to join my colleagues and express sincere appreciation and highest praise for CAREC Secretariat for your full efforts on being the main engine of the CAREC activities that has such a visible result in our region.

I would like to say few words about each endorsed report.

First. Like many countries in CAREC region, we faced higher public debt brought by increased government spending, coupled with rising inflation and geopolitical conflict, and as any other country we focused our policies on socio-economic recovery. It is very organic to align those principles to be green, sustainable and inclusive. The report had overview of all sectors of all countries, and gives generous background for further actions. We would like to provide our full efforts on completion of the main CAREC strategies that are until year 2030 under this resolution.

Second. Food security and food chain focus of CAREC program is very essential for our government. We have ambitious goals for the next few years to increase the domestic supply and hope the Regional Working Group on Agricultural Development and Food Security will provide extensive capacity building and become a knowledge sharing platform. As Ministry of Economy and Development is within this working group, we would support and engage actively on its implementation. The collaboration of agricultural working group with other CAREC existing working groups is highly noted, perhaps it will have more complex administration but higher synergetic return.

Third. The concept of Green Energy Alliance to create a platform of investment-ready projects and proposals, to find investors or new partners, and sharing knowledge with B2B community is very new and exciting. Upon its successful realization the output might become great benchmark for other clusters as well.

Fourth. As for Mongolia, mitigation and adaptation climate change policies are being steadily improved by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, alongside the National Climate Change Committee. To reach ambitious NDC commitments the government needs cross-sectoral administration to implement NAPCC and NDC Action Plan. As a crosscutting theme, climate change is a sector where cooperation is a necessity, hence we would be more than happy to provide our full support for the implementation stated in the report's recommendations.

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 would like to express our approval of the Joint Ministerial Statement and assure that with the establishment of Ministry of Economy and Development, we foresee even more fruitful cooperation and implementation within the CAREC platform.

Thank you for your attention.

Statement by Pakistan

Delivered by Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Governor for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in ADB

Good Afternoon

Mr. Kun Liu, Minister of Finance, People's Republic of China.

Mr. Shixin Chen, Vice President (Operations 1), Excellencies & respected delegates!

Let me begin by thanking the ADB and the Government of People's Republic of China for hosting 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference, which enables the member countries to share views for the long-term strategic frameworks to achieve envisaged regional cooperation goals.

Government of Pakistan appreciates CAREC's long standing and trusted partnership with Pakistan since 2010 and its cumulative financing of more than \$1.5 billion in diverse sectors such as Transport, Trade Facilitation and Energy.

We realize that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the process of economic integration by hindering the flows of goods and services, and financial mobility. The crisis also provided opportunities to rejuvenate our efforts on regional development by committing to the CAREC Post-pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery.

Enable to enhance productivity through digitalization, innovation and investment, for achieving green growth through climate action, sustainable agriculture and energy transition.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Pakistan has already given specific comments along with suggestions on the deliverables; however, while endorsing the final documents, I would like to share a few key thoughts;

1. Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery:

Food security and protection against disasters have gained even more importance in view of Region's climate vulnerabilities. Therefore, the policies, regulations, and initiatives that support CAREC region's green transition and adaptation to climate change must be given highest priority.

Pakistan is one of the lowest contributors of GHG emissions at 0.9%, but one of the most affected to climate change. Therefore, Pakistan has set a cumulative ambitious conditional target of overall 50% reduction of its projected emissions by 2030 (with 15% from the country's own resources and 35% subject to provision of international financial support), through clean production technologies, energy efficiency initiatives, mega afforestation projects among others.

2. Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region:

Climate change, natural disasters/calamities, COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions, and disruptions in supply chains, have adversely impacted food security in the CAREC region, through flooding, heat waves, droughts, pest and diseases. The region's agriculture sector also suffers from inadequate infrastructure, lack of investment, and gaps in the regulatory environment.

Agriculture is a key economic sector for all CAREC member states, and accounts for over 40% of total employment and generates more than 20% of gross domestic product (GDP) in Pakistan. Agricultural development has significant implications for poverty reduction, gender equality, and

youth employment.

Therefore, enhancing efficiency in agriculture through modern farming practices, (including green technologies) mechanization, and digital technologies, climate resilient practices are essential for CAREC member states.

Close collaboration on agricultural education, research and development, the seed industry and extension services, to adopt to and reduce GHG emissions, raise productivity in agriculture and improve the availability and affordability of food products.

Mechanized harvesting, storage facilities, value-added products, fast track access to credit/finance specially the women farmers, accredited Food Quality Testing/certification/registration/branding facilities.

Developing mutual agreements to tackle climate calamities happening in the region and creation of regional food bank to help the effected people in the region.

3. Green Energy Alliance:

The Government of Pakistan welcomes the proposal for the CAREC Green Energy Alliance, a new regional financing vehicle bringing together project developers and financiers under a joint platform. The financing vehicle shall be designed with a view to providing CAREC members with end-to-end solutions to co-finance clean energy projects.

Pakistan has recently approved “Scoping Study on Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change as a Crosscutting Theme Under CAREC 2030”.

4. Climate Change & Scoping Study:

As per our NDCs 2021 commitments made at COP-26 in Glasgow, Pakistan has set a cumulative ambitious conditional target of overall 50% reduction of its projected emissions by 2030, with 15% from the country’s own resources and 35% subject to provision of international financial support.

Pakistan’s National Action Plan on sustainable Development Goals-12 (Sustainable Consumption & Production), encourages adoption of clean production technologies, implementation of ecostandard carbon trading between industries.

Pakistan has suffered from the highest summer rainfall totals in over three decades. The recent flash flooding has left one-third of the country submerged in water and has created catastrophic damage affecting at least 33 million people – about 15 percent of the population.

Estimates that the flooding has caused \$10 billion in damages and destroyed more than 1 million homes. Pakistan is among the ten countries most affected by extreme weather events despite its very low carbon footprint.

Digitalization & E-Commerce:

Pakistan having the fourth fastest-growing E-Commerce market in the world with 47% growth rate. Pakistan’s revenue in the ecommerce market is projected to reach \$7.6 billion by 2022 and \$9.1 billion by 2025. To promote E-Commerce, an MoU with China has been signed.

The government across the globe are increasing their spending on ICT to provide better citizen centric services and increased transparency and accountability. Pakistan is undergoing a digital revolution and has taken numerous initiatives for the provisioning of ICT based solutions. This represents a huge potential for investors to offer cloud-based infrastructure and solutions to Government of Pakistan.

The Government of Pakistan's vision to create an enabling environment for holistic growth of eCommerce across all sectors of the country, while protecting the interests of consumers and sellers with special focus on development and promotion of SMEs and for making Pakistan a significant player of the regional and global digital economy.

The present government understands the connectivity to strengthen regional trade and is working on a policy to enhance trade and connectivity with Central Asia States (CAS) through neighboring countries and has already taken several measures.

Endorsement for Joint Ministerial Statement:

CAREC Ministerial Conference theme 2022 "Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for Green Growth and Inclusive Recovery" is well supported and, all the deliverables, Joint Ministerial Statement is hereby endorsed.

Government of Pakistan gives its assurance for continued support provided by the CAREC. We are hopeful for the swift implementation of the all CAREC deliverables. 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 on Economic Issues,
CAREC National Focal Point

Thank you Mr. Chairman!
Dear Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa,
Dear ministers, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, let me personally and on behalf of the Tajik delegation, welcome all the participants of the twenty-first Ministerial Conference of the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Program.

Since last year's Ministerial Conference, despite major events taking place globally and a generally challenging year for all countries, significant work has been done by participating countries and multilateral institutions under the CAREC Program.

Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to our colleagues from the Government of the People's Republic of China for chairing this year, as well as to the team of the Asian Development Bank, especially the CAREC Secretariat for the impeccable organization of the Program events in these difficult conditions.

I also wanted to thank our colleagues from the IMF and the CAREC Secretariat for the excellent and quite informative presentations.

Our region, like the whole world, is going through a period of the most difficult crisis situations, such as the unprecedented scale of the coronavirus pandemic, which practically paralyzed the entire planet, major geopolitical conflicts, trade wars and sanctions. The consequences of these crises - a sharp rise in world energy and food prices, rising inflation and poverty levels, and an increase in public debt – are exacerbated by the increasing frequency of natural disasters and global warming.

To minimize losses from crises, as well as to adequately respond to modern challenges, large-scale cooperation is required at the regional level. An analysis of world experience confirms the need for unifying efforts in responding to challenges, as well as the failure of the course towards isolationism. Now, more than ever, a sense of solidarity, mutual support and general cohesion are important and in demand.

Therefore, we support the proposed CAREC Framework for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Post-Pandemic Recovery, which offers a new set of economic policies to increase resilience to new shocks and further promote the interconnectedness of our region.

These challenges have dramatically exacerbated pre-existing food security problems in the region.

In this regard, we also fully support the Presented Version of the Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region.

We are confident that this initiative has the potential to serve as the basis for a future CAREC strategy to modernize agriculture and improve food security in the region.

Many proposals from Tajikistan made in previous years have been accepted and already become an integral part of the Program.

Today we are very pleased to see that another proposal we made is finding its practical implementation – this concerns green and clean energy, which has the enormous development prospects in the region.

We all know that the development of this area requires significant financial resources.

In this regard, we fully support the establishment of the CAREC Green Energy Alliance, which will be an innovative new financing mechanism for integrated solutions to co-finance clean energy projects in the CAREC countries.

CAREC Green Energy Alliance Concept, submitted for our approval, will enable a digital platform for CAREC members to assist in integrated solutions for co-financing future clean energy projects in our region.

As for Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change as a cross-cutting theme under CAREC 2030: Scoping Study, this area has always been a priority for Tajikistan, since our country is one of the most vulnerable in the region to climate change.

Therefore, we believe that the presented document can underlie a systematic and strategic approach of CAREC to the climate agenda in the region.

I would like to note that all the documents submitted today for our approval are the result of long and painstaking work by the CAREC governments, a large group of experts and consultants, and the staff of multilateral institutions. We commend this.

We are confident that this year's activities will reinforce CAREC's feature as a results-based program and provide renewed momentum for further interest and increased support from multilateral institutions.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to reiterate our full support for the CAREC Program.

We will continue to engage with all participating countries of the Program and development partners on the basis of equality and common interests to realize 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 Ministerial Conference successful cooperation within the CAREC Program so that we can jointly take part in global competition from a stronger position in order to achieve stable development of our economies and improve the well-being of the citizens of the region.

I hope that next year we will have the opportunity to meet not virtually, but to greet each other in person.

Thank you for attention.

Statement by Turkmenistan

Delivered by Mr. Muhammet'geldi Serdarov, Minister of Finance and Economy, CAREC
National Focal Point

Dear Chairman!

Dear President of the Asian Development Bank!

Dear Ministers of the CAREC member countries!

Dear participants of the 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference!

I am sincerely glad to welcome all of you, and I wish you fruitful work and good health.

On behalf of Turkmenistan, I would like to thank the People's Republic of China for its active chairmanship and important contribution to the development of regional cooperation, as well as all the CAREC member countries for constructive and productive work on the relevant and important documents submitted today for approval by the Ministers and heads of the delegations. Also, I would like to express my gratitude to the Asian Development Bank, CAREC Secretariat, and development partners for their constant constructive interaction.

I would like to say a few words about the documents submitted for approval:

Turkmenistan Supports CAREC Framework for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery from the Pandemic. The coronavirus pandemic has exposed the region's chronic development challenges, as well as the region's vulnerability to economic and non-economic shocks, which have negatively affected the region's sustainable development prospects and their cross-border economic impacts.

In our opinion, this Framework Program will serve as a «road map» for a more efficient recovery of the countries in the region.

Turkmenistan Supports the Framework Program for Food Security and Agricultural Development in the CAREC Region. We believe that in the face of changing global trade flows and rising food prices, its implementation will become a solid foundation for regional partnership in building a reliable and sustainable food system focused on offering affordable food to citizens.

The proposal to establish a CAREC Working Group on Agricultural Development and Food Security to monitor the implementation of the Program is essential.

Turkmenistan supports CAREC Green Energy Alliance. This document can become an efficient tool for countries in the region to achieve the Goals to combat climate change. The transition to green energy and climate resilience should be the priorities across all budgets allocated by international financial institutions to support the regional economy.

Regarding the scoping study of support of the regional action to address climate change, I would like to note that it reflects some approaches to the climate agenda of our countries.

Turkmenistan is actively involved in this activity and plans to achieve zero growth in greenhouse gas emissions in the medium term starting from 2030, as well as significant annual reduction in the longer term.

Our country has approved the «Roadmap for the development of international cooperation of Turkmenistan in the area of hydrogen energy for 2022-2023», the implementation of which will significantly improve the environment in the country. Previously, the SDG-based National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan have been adopted and are being implemented.

We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Turkmenistan and the UN on climate change mitigation and adaptation, creating a platform to support national initiatives such as the development of the National Low Carbon Development Strategy and Action Plan, the National Aral Sea Action Plan, the National Strategy for climate change. Turkmenistan will continue active involvement in this area.

Turkmenistan has reviewed the draft Joint Ministerial Statement of the 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference and, in general, we support its provisions.

Dear Chairman! Ladies and gentlemen!

The final versions of the CAREC Program documents submitted today for approval meet the challenges of our time and are aligned with the objectives of our countries. Further formation of regional alliances, such as the CAREC Green Energy Alliance, may open up new opportunities for the region on the path to a green, sustainable, and inclusive recovery.

In conclusion, let me thank everyone for their active engagement, and the CAREC Secretariat for the work done.

Thank you.

Statement by Uzbekistan

Delivered by Mr. Abdulla Khashimov, Head of Department, Deputy Coordinator of CAREC in Uzbekistan

Esteemed Mr. Kong Liu (PRC's Minister of Finance)
Esteemed Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa (ADB President)
Dear participants of the Ministerial Conference,

Please, allow me to cordially greet all the participants of the conference on behalf of the Uzbek delegation.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the People's Republic of China, the leadership of the ADB, the Central, West Asia and East Asia Departments of the ADB, the CAREC Secretariat for the enormous work done in preparing this conference.

Availing this opportunity, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our international partners providing support to the countries of the region.

The support extended by the leading international financial institutions is very significant in maintaining the momentum of the reforms under implementation in our countries and reducing the time for economic recovery after a slowdown in growth rates.

The measures taken by the leadership of Uzbekistan in recent years demonstrate a proactive approach to maintain the momentum of reforms and reduce the time to restore the economy and people's living standards.

The large-scale reforms being carried out in the country lay the foundation for a new stage of our development – the era of New Uzbekistan.

Promoting cooperation, first of all with our neighboring countries, is an absolute 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 growth points, new drivers of our long-term development.

One should say that the CAREC Program is doing an enormous work in this regard.

This year has been a very busy one for CAREC. We are pleased to note that all CAREC activities scheduled for this year are being successfully implemented with the active participation of countries.

This allowed for timely and complete preparation and submission of a number of important documents for consideration and approval by the current conference.

In general, we note the successful implementation of the CAREC 2030 Strategy endorsed in 2017. Indisputably, it serves as a basis for all the work under the program and is consistent with the development strategies and plans of the CAREC countries.

A whole number of CAREC sectoral strategies have been approved during this period, and they are also being successfully implemented.

Let me briefly dwell on the draft documents presented today.

1. CAREC Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery (2023-2025)

GDP growth in the CAREC region has accelerated substantially after a sharp slowdown in 2020 caused by the COVID -19 pandemic.

This allowed GDP to exceed 2019 levels in 2022 in most CAREC countries. However, the recovery is not yet sustainable, and geopolitical tensions are posing new challenges.

We support the CAREC approach, which is for CAREC countries to intensify their joint efforts, demonstrate commitment, and use regional cooperation to achieve sustainable recovery and development of their economies.

Besides, a right decision, as it seems to us, was made that the CAREC Institute, as an arm of the CAREC Research and Capacity Building Program, will lead this component in close coordination with the countries.

CAREC countries will engage in an informed dialogue to assess and redefine policy approaches with a focus on recovery through regional economic cooperation.

The Uzbek side supports the presented Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery.

2. Food Security and Agriculture Development Initiative in the CAREC Region

The COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts have abruptly exacerbated earlier existing threats to food security in the region.

The Uzbek side supports the initiative of the CAREC Secretariat to prepare the Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region.

The framework should form the basis for the preparation of the CAREC strategy for agricultural modernization and food security.

We endorse the presented Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region.

3. CAREC Green Energy Alliance

The Alliance is to be the first targeted financing facility in the region to support the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

The CAREC Green Energy Alliance aims to provide additional investment to achieve a greener regional energy balance.

In our view, the Alliance should become a digital project marketplace providing access to green energy projects ready for investment, affordable financing and project preparation support.

The Uzbek side approves the presented draft concept of the CAREC Green Energy Alliance.

4. Regional cooperation and integration and the scoping study on climate change

The CAREC region is highly prone to natural disasters. Large-scale geophysical, atmospheric and hydrometeorological disasters often cause serious damage.

An average annual loss caused by floods and earthquakes in the region amounts to \$4.7 billion.

The pandemic has highlighted the complex nature of an extreme risk. The increased insecurity of countries and regions associated with response measures and caused by negative economic consequences has become apparent.

The Uzbek side endorses the submitted draft Study on finding the best ways to step up CAREC's efforts to support regional actions related to climate change response.

Thank you for attention.

21st CAREC Ministerial Conference
24 November 2022, 15:00-17:30 Manila time (GMT+8), Virtual

Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery

AGENDA

Co-Chairs:

Mr. Xia Xiande
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
People's Republic of China

Mr. Chen Shixin
Vice President (Operations 1)
Asian Development Bank

14:30–14:55	Registration
14:55–15:00	<p>Call Meeting to Order <i>Ms. Teresa Kho, Director General, East Asia Department will call the meeting to order, invite participants for a group photo.</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Xia will then introduce Minister Kun who will deliver the welcome address.</i></p>
15:00–15:05	<p>Welcome Address Mr. Liu Kun Minister, Ministry of Finance, People's Republic of China</p>
15:05–15:10	<p>Keynote Address Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, President, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p>
15:10–15:25	<p>Regional Economic Outlook on CAREC Countries Mr. Subir Lall, Deputy Director Middle East and Central Asia Department, International Monetary Fund</p>
15:25–15:35	<p>2022 CAREC Deliverables for Endorsement Mr. Eugenie Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department, ADB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The CAREC Post-Pandemic Framework for Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery</i> 2. <i>Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region</i> 3. <i>The CAREC Green Energy Alliance</i> <p>Other 2022 CAREC Deliverables including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <i>Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change as a Crosscutting Theme Under CAREC 2030</i>

	<p><i>Present 2 videos during this session:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>CAREC Achievements Highlights</i> 2. <i>CAREC 2022 Major Deliverables</i> <p><i>CAREC Implementation Progress Report has been shared prior to the Ministerial Conference.</i></p>
15:35–16:20	<p>CAREC Ministers Endorsement and Consideration of the Joint Ministerial Statement</p> <p><i>CAREC Ministers will give brief statements on the CAREC 2030 implementation and endorse the 2022 CAREC deliverables. CAREC Ministers will consider the draft Joint Ministerial Statement for endorsement.</i></p>
16:20–17:05	<p>Statements by CAREC Institute and Development Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Sir Danny Alexander, Vice President, Policy and Strategy • World Trade Organization (WTO) Mr. Xiangchen Zhang, Deputy Director General • CAREC Institute Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director • UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary • Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Mr. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary General • Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD) Mr. Andrey Shirokov, Managing Director • World Bank Ms. Tatiana Proskuryakova, Regional Director for Central Asia • Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan Mr. Yoshinori Takeda, Director, Central Asia and Caucasus Division • US State Department Mr. Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs (<i>pre-recorded</i>)
17:05–17:10	<p>Remarks by the Government of Georgia</p> <p>Mr. Genadi Arveladze, Deputy Minister Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development CAREC National Focal Point, Georgia</p>
17:10–17:15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Xia Xiande , Deputy Minister Ministry of Finance, People’s Republic of China</p>
17:30	<p>Conference concludes</p>

**VIRTUAL CAREC 21st MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
24 November 2022 (15:00-17:30, Manila time)**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. CAREC COUNTRIES

A. Azerbaijan

1. Mr. Samad Bashirli, Deputy Minister of Economy, Republic of Azerbaijan and CAREC National Focal Point

B. People's Republic of China

2. Mr. Liu Kun, Minister of Finance, PRC
3. Mr. Xia Xiande, Deputy Minister of Finance, PRC

C. Georgia

4. Mr. Levan Davitashvili, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development
5. Mr. Genadi Arveladze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, CAREC National Focal Point

D. Kazakhstan

6. Mr. Alibek Kuantyrov, Minister of National Economy, Republic of Kazakhstan and Governor for The Republic of Kazakhstan in ADB

E. Kyrgyz Republic

7. Mr. Khanat Abdrahmanov, Vice Minister, Minister of Economy and Commerce, CAREC National Focal Point

F. Mongolia

8. Mr. Batjargal Khandjav, State Secretary of Ministry of Economy and Development

G. Pakistan

9. Mr. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, Minister for Economic Affairs and Governor for the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in ADB
10. Mr. Syed Shakeel Shah, Chief Customs, Federal Board of Revenue (former CAREC Institute Director)

H. Tajikistan

11. Mr. Nematullo Hikmatullozoda, Assistant to the President on Economic Issues, CAREC National Focal Point

I. Turkmenistan

12. Mr. Muhammetgeldi Serdarov, Minister of Finance and Economy, CAREC National Focal Point
13. Mr. Serdar Saparov, Deputy Minister of Energy
14. Mr. Begmyrat Atayev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (TBC)
15. Ms. Galina Romanova, Head of Public Finance and Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy
16. Mr. Maksat Kutlymyradov, Head of International Division, Public Finance and Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy
17. Mr. Ata Chapayev, Senior Specialist, International Division, Public Finance and Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy
18. Mr. Atageldi Mamiyev, Head of Foreign Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Energy

J. Uzbekistan

19. Mr. Laziz Kudratov, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade

II.DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

A. Agence Française De Développement

20. Mr. Tom Pougnet, Project officer at AFD Regional Directorate for Eurasia

B. Asian Development Bank (for updating)

21. Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa, President
22. Mr. Shixin Chen, Vice President (Operations 1)
23. Mr. Aiming Zhou, Senior Advisor to the Vice President
24. Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD)
25. Ms. M. Teresa Kho, Director General, East Asia Department (EARD)
26. Mr. Nianshan Zhang, Deputy Director General, CWRD
27. Ms. Cindy Malvicini, Senior Advisor, CWRD
28. Mr. Safdar Parvez, Advisor, EARD
29. Ms. Emma Fan, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, & Regional Cooperation Division (EAPF), EARD
30. Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Director, Operations Coordination and Regional Cooperation Division (CWRC), CWRD
31. Mr. Saad Paracha, Unit Head, CAREC/ Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
32. Mr. Nariman Mannapbekov, Country Director, Kazakhstan Resident Mission
33. Ms. Kanokpan Lao-Araya, Country Director, Kyrgyz Republic Resident Mission
34. Mr. Enrico Pinali, Officer in Charge, Uzbekistan Resident Mission
35. Mr. Yong Ye, Country Director, Pakistan Resident Mission
36. Ms. Shanny Campbell, Country Director, Tajikistan Resident Mission
37. Mr. Hao Zhang, Deputy Country Director, PRC Resident Mission
38. Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, EAPF
39. Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, EAPF
40. Ms. Xinglan Hu, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
41. Mr. Seung Min Lee, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
42. Mr. Roman Mogilevski, Senior Economist, CWRC
43. Mr. Minsoo Lee, Senior Economist, CWRC
44. Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Economist (Regional Cooperation), CWRC
45. Ms. Sarin Abado, Energy Specialist, CWEN
46. Ms. Kirthi Ramesh, Social Sector Specialist, CWSS
47. Mr. Jurgen Sluijter, Senior Transport Specialist, CWTC
48. Mr. Oleg Samukhin, Senior Transport Specialist, CWTC

- 49. Ms. Ritu Mishra, Young Professional, CWTC
- 50. Mr. Kazuhiro Yoshida, Senior Water Resources Specialist, CWER
- 51. Mr. Andrew Achimu, Communications Specialist, Department of Communications (DOC)
- 52. Ms. Johanna Camille S. Cayco, Associate Communications Officer, DOC
- 53. Ms. Tatiana Evstifeeva, Communications Officer, Tajikistan Resident Mission
- 54. Mr. Alvin Morales, Senior Evaluation Officer, IED
- 55. Ms. Carmela Espina, Senior Economics Officer, CWRC
- 56. Ms. Irene de Roma, Programs Officer, CWRC
- 57. Ms. Mary Ann Magadia, Programs Analyst, CWRC
- 58. Ms. Licel Calderon-Tanquintic, Senior Operations Assistant, CWRC

C. Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)

- 59. Mr. Seungju Baek, Deputy Dean (Capacity Building and Training and Special Activities)
- 60. Ms. Dina Azhgaliyeva, Research Fellow

D. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- 61. Sir Danny Alexander, Vice President, Policy and Strategy
- 62. Mr. Hong Wei, Senior Advisor to the Vice President
- 63. Mr. Yuanjiang Sun, Manager of Partnerships and Regional Cooperation, Operational Partnership Department
- 64. Mr. Bin Wang, Senior Policy and Strategy Officer, Operational Partnership Department
- 65. Mr. Ping Yean Cheah, Senior Strategy Officer, Operational Partnership Department
- 66. Mr. Kazuhiro Nomoto, Partnership Officer, Operational Partnership Department
- 67. Ms. Mary Losmithgul, Partnership Consultant, Operational Partnership Department
- 68. Mr. Anzheng Wei, Investment Officer, Infrastructure Investment Department Region 2
- 69. Mr. Hong Wei, Senior Advisor to the Vice President, Office of the Vice President, Investment Operations Region 2
- 70. Ms. Yan Xie, Senior Transport Specialist, Strategy, Policy and Budget Department

E. CAREC Institute (CI)

- 71. Mr. Kabir Jurazoda, Director
- 72. Ms. Jingjing Huang, Deputy Director 1
- 73. Mr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Deputy Director 2
- 74. Mr. Hans Holzhacker, Chief Economist
- 75. Mr. Qaisar Abbas, Chief of Research Division
- 76. Mr. Khalid Umar, Chief of Strategic Planning Division
- 77. Mr. Eisa Khan Ayoob Ayoobi, Chief of Capacity Building Division
- 78. Ms. Xin Lei, Chief of Knowledge Management Division
- 79. Mr. Josh Hu, Chief of HR and Finance Division
- 80. Mr. Ghulam Samad, Senior Research Specialist
- 81. Mr. Batsaikhan Zagdragchaa, Senior Strategic Planning Specialist
- 82. Mr. Ilhom Abdulloev, Senior Research Specialist

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

- 83. Mr. Makhmadali Shokirov, Chairperson

G. Economic Cooperation Organization

- 84. Mr. Khusrav Noziri, Secretary-General
- 85. Mr. Rovshan Mirzayev, Director of Energy, Minerals and Environment Directorate

H. Eurasian Development Bank

- 86. Ms. Farina Mutaliyeva, Director
- 87. Ms. Evgenia Klochkova

I. Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD)

- 88. Mr. Andrey Shirokov, Managing Director
- 89. Dr. Evgeny Vinokurov, Deputy Managing Director –Chief Economist
- 90. Mr. Tigran Kostanyan, Director for Budget Support
- 91. Mr. Armen Poghosyan, Director for Investment Financing
- 92. Mr. Gennadiy Vasiliev, Head of Partner Relations

J. European Union External Action

- 93. Mr. Marcin Kacperek, Policy Officer

K. Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

- 94. Mr. Christopher Athayde, Team Leader, Regional Development Banks

L. International Monetary Fund (IMF)

- 95. Mr. Subir Lall, Deputy Director, Middle East and Central Asia (prerecorded)

M. Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- 96. Mr. Yoshinori TAKEDA, Director, Central Asia and Caucasus Division
- 97. Mr. Katsumoto BIYAJIMA, Deputy Director, Central Asia and Caucasus Division

N. State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

- 98. Ms. Vanessa Schmidli, Program Manager, Multilateral Cooperation Unit

O. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

- 99. Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary
- 100. Mr. Jose Palacin, Senior Economic Affairs Officer

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

- 101. Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Head of the ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia

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

- 102. Mr. Magnuss Magnusson, Director, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office for Central Asia

R. United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

- 103. Mr. Jacek Cukrowski, Chief of Regional Coordination Bureau, Europe and Central Asia

S. United States Department of State

- 104. Mr. Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs (prerecorded)
- 105. Ms. Coby Lastuka, Financial Economist, Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs

T. World Bank

- 106. Ms. Tatiana Proskuryakova, Regional Director for the Central Asia
- 107. Mr. Sascha Djumena, Country Program Director for Central Asia
- 108. Mr. Dmitry Petrin, Senior Operations Officer, Central Asia Office

U. World Trade Organization

- 109. Mr. Xiangchen Zhang, Deputy-Director General
- 110. Mr. Jianning Chen, Advisor to the Deputy Director General
- 111. Ms. Anna Varyanik, Legal Affairs Officer

III.ADB/CAREC CONSULTANTS

- 112. Mr. Ashraf Kuliyeu, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Azerbaijan
- 113. Ms. Ekaterine Koroshinadze, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Georgia
- 114. Mr. Laifei Xiong, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, PRC
- 115. Mr. Diyar Tassym, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Kazakhstan
- 116. Ms. Guldana Sadykova, Senior Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Kazakhstan
- 117. Mr. Meder Turgunbekov, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Kyrgyz Republic
- 118. Ms. Aidana Berdybekova, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Kyrgyz Republic
- 119. Ms. Bujinkham Erdenebaatar, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Mongolia
- 120. Mr. Muhammad Ali, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Pakistan
- 121. Mr. Shahid Vakil, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Pakistan
- 122. Mr. Rustam Aminjanov, Advisor the CAREC NFP, Tajikistan
- 123. Mr. Durdy Ilamanov, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Turkmenistan
- 124. Mr. Nadir Safaev, Senior Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Uzbekistan
- 125. Ms. Reneli Gloria, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, ADB HQ
- 126. Mr. Alzeus Alzate, Administration Assistant, ADB HQ
- 127. Ms. Sol Han, Consultant, CWRC
- 128. Ms. Edwina Zhang, Consultant, CWRC
- 129. Ms. Alina Alymkulova, Consultant, CWRC
- 130. Ms. Shuqi Su, Consultant, CWRC
- 131. Mr. Naveed Durrani, Consultant, CWRC
- 132. Mr. Shahab Mirza, Web Developer and Admin, CWRC
- 133. Mr. Muhammad Muddassir Naveed, TA Coordinator, CWRC
- 134. Ms. Loreli De Dios, Consultant, EAPF
- 135. Ms. Aiken Tafgar, Consultant, EAPF
- 136. Mr. Julius Santos, Consultant, EAPF
- 137. Ms. Camille Isles, Consultant, EAPF
- 138. Dr. Johannes Linn, Consultant, CWRC
- 139. Ms. Gulshat Raissova, Consultant, CWRC
- 140. Mr. Turdakun Tashbolotov, Consultant, CWRC
- 141. Mr. Walter Kolkma, Consultant, IED
- 142. Ms. Pilar Sahilan, Consultant, CWTC

IV.INTERPRETERS

- 143. Ms. Janna Ustemirova
- 144. Mr. Rustam Sataev
- 145. Ms. Luna Zhang
- 146. Ms. Lacy Lan