



Welcome Address by Mr. Olzhas Bektenov
Prime Minister, Republic of Kazakhstan
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Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
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We are pleased to host the Ministerial Conference of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation program this year.

It is particularly gratifying that Kazakhstan's chairmanship coincides with the 30th anniversary of our partnership with the Asian Development Bank.

Over this period, Kazakhstan and ADB have implemented more than **30 projects**, with a total value exceeding **6.8 billion US dollars**. These projects have covered key sectors of our economy, significantly enhancing infrastructure, improving access to social services, and creating conditions for sustainable growth.

Through CAREC, around **51 billion US dollars** has been invested in the region, with over **9 billion** allocated to projects in Kazakhstan. These investments have already strengthened transport and energy connectivity, supported trade, and improved the quality of life for our citizens.

Kazakhstan places special focus on certain priority areas within the CAREC Program.

First, the effective development of **transport and logistics corridors** is a key growth factor for Central Asia, opening new prospects for investment and international trade.

To achieve this, we have adopted the **«Concept for Developing Kazakhstan's Transport and Logistics Potential until 2030»**, aimed at enhancing multimodal connectivity, transport efficiency, and infrastructure management. Through this initiative, we plan to increase transit volumes across our territory to **35 million tons**, including **2 million containers**, by 2030.

We are committed to developing railway and maritime infrastructure. This includes projects to construct around **1300 kilometers of new railways**, overhaul **11 thousand kilometers of the mainline network**, build dry ports, expand port capacities, and develop our merchant fleet. These measures open up new opportunities and strengthen our position in the **«North-South»** and **«East-West»** international corridors.

With joint efforts and support from international financial institutions, we can build an effective and sustainable transport infrastructure, integrating our region into global supply chains.

Second, Kazakhstan has set ambitious goals in **decarbonization** and sustainable development.

We have adopted a **Strategy for Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060**.

Aligned with the **Paris Agreement**, we are working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions **by 15%** by 2030.

We have also updated our **Concept for Transition to a Green Economy** until 2030.

Meeting these decarbonization goals requires significant investment from both international and domestic sources.

We aim to attract around **610 billion dollars** to implement these measures.

Kazakhstan is ready to strengthen cooperation with CAREC countries and implement joint projects to achieve these objectives.

Third, food security is critical for the entire region, and we aim to ensure food availability and quality in the face of global challenges and climate change.

We are committed to developing our agro-industrial complex with a focus on **deep processing**, increasing the share of processed products, while actively restructuring and expanding our export profile.

Last year, our exports of processed products **doubled**, reaching **2.3 billion dollars**.

I encourage regional countries and international financial organizations to unite efforts in ensuring food security through collaborative projects.

Kazakhstan remains committed to close cooperation with international financial organizations and the CAREC member countries to achieve our common goals.

We deeply appreciate the ADB's ongoing support and attention to the needs and challenges of our region.