



**17th MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE  
ON CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION  
Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

**PROPOSED AGENDA**

**15 November 2018**

**CAREC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE**

**“CAREC 2030: Expanding Trade and Promoting Diversification”**

**0800–0845      Registration**

**0900–1615      CAREC Ministerial Meeting  
Venue: Conference Hall 1, Yyldyz Hotel**

*Participants: CAREC Senior Officials from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the People’s Republic of China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; and representatives from: Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Development Bank Institute, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), CAREC Institute, Department for International Development (DfID), Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), Eurasian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Commission, European Union, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New Development Bank (NDB), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), US State Department, World Bank (WB), and the World Trade Organization (WTO).*

Mr. Batyr Bazarov  
Minister of Finance and Economy  
CAREC National Focal Point  
Chair of the Ministerial Conference

To be assisted by the CAREC Secretariat:  
Mr. Wencai Zhang  
Vice President, ADB

**0900–0930      Inaugural Session**

- 0900–0905 **Welcome Address**  
Mr. Batyr Bazarov  
Minister of Finance and Economy
- 0905–0920 **Keynote Address (to be confirmed)**  
His Excellency Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov  
President of Turkmenistan
- 0920–0930 **Special Address**  
Mr. Takehiko Nakao  
President, ADB
- 0930–1000 *Group Photo followed by Coffee/Tea Break*
- 1000–1230 Roundtable Discussion**  
Topic: The New CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 and CAREC 2030 Implementation
- 1000–1015 *ADB Chief Economist will set the context of the CITA 2030 by presenting the global and regional trade outlook and its implications on the CAREC countries*
- 1015–1030 *CAREC Secretariat will present and request endorsement of the CITA 2030 and its 3-year rolling strategic action plan (RSAP) 2018–2020*
- 1030–1045 *CAREC Secretariat will present an update on CAREC 2030 implementation progress on the five operational clusters*
- 1045–1230 *CAREC Ministers will provide a brief statement (4 min. per country) with their insights and guidance on CAREC 2030 implementation and the endorsement of CITA 2030 and its embedded RSAP 2018–2020. Other participants may also provide their views and insights.*
- 1230–1400 Lunch**  
Hosted by the Asian Development Bank  
Venue: Restaurant of Yyldyz Hotel, 4th floor
- 1400–1545 Panel Discussion**  
Topic: Export Diversification for Growth and Macroeconomic Stability
- Export diversification is associated with improved economic resilience, stabilized export revenues, and higher growth and investment rates. However, production of sophisticated products and related services that can compete in international markets are still limited in the CAREC region, which hampers countries' participation in global and regional value chains. This session will discuss directions and approaches for export diversification in CAREC countries and the role that CAREC can play in supporting this process.*
- High-Level Panel Discussion**
- Panelists: CAREC Ministers and senior representatives of international development partners

*The moderator will deliver short remarks to introduce the theme of the open forum. Panelists will provide their views and insights, followed by an interactive session with the audience and subsequent questions to the panelists.*

**1545–1600**    **Consideration of the Joint Ministerial Statement**  
*CAREC Ministers will consider the draft Joint Ministerial Statement with a view to endorsing*

**1600–1615**    **Closing Session**

**Closing Remarks**  
Mr. Batyr Bazarov  
Chair of the Ministerial Conference

**1830–2030**    **Dinner Reception**  
Hosted by the Government of Turkmenistan  
Venue: tbd