

# CAREC Consolidated Trade Agenda – Proposed elements and regional approach

**CAREC Workshop on Trade and Trade Facilitation Reforms –**  
*WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and Consolidated Trade Agenda*  
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# Developing CAREC Consolidated Trade Agenda (CCTA)

Previous iterations of trade work



Unfinished agenda



Global and regional developments



Aligned with and complements national plans

## CAREC 2030

- Enhanced openness
- Trade expansion
- Further integration with the global economy
- Economic diversification through private sector development

# Principles

**C** **Continue and deepen** the existing areas of **core competence** within CAREC such as support for WTO accession, promotion of international best practices and innovation in customs cooperation and integrated trade facilitation;

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**A** **Adopt** and implement the latest **global agenda** relevant to trade facilitation and policy including through dialogues and support for the development of enabling policies;

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**R** **Reach out** to related existing and emerging sectoral, cross-sectoral, and broader policy areas where trade plays **key roles** and where there is cross- and inter-subregional linkages;

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**E** **Evaluate** results objectively and consistently to strengthen program implementation while maintaining flexibility and adaptability;

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**C** **Crush institutional silos** for seamless exchange of information and **effective coordination** and strengthen partnership with relevant stakeholders towards a more integrated trade approach.

# Scope and key elements

## 1. Trade in goods

- adoption of open trade policies, implement commitments
- deepening trade facilitation efforts

## 2. Trade in services and investment

- policy reforms to promote services trade
- trade-FDI linkages and enabling environment

## 3. Potential new areas

- emerging topics of discussion in trade agreements
- address residual impediments to integration and innovation

## 4. Trade governance and institutional strengthening

- effective & coherent policies through inter-agency committees
- improved capacity of officials

## *Indicative actions or activities*

- Compliance with multilateral commitments while achieving economic objectives
  - WTO accession and post-accession commitments, agreements on technical barriers to trade (TBTs), SPS and the TFA
- Deepening trade facilitation initiatives
  - interoperability of national single windows
  - common information exchange beyond customs agencies
  - establishment of regional transit regime
  - improved SPS & quality infrastructure
  - strengthened private sector engagement
  - improved border crossing points & corridor performance measurement and monitoring

## *Indicative actions or activities*

- policy work on specific sectors vis-à-vis CAREC members commitments under the WTO GATS or other agreements
- development of travel services, particularly tourism sector
- sharing good practices in regulating e-commerce or services related to digital trade
- cross-border investment facilitation and establishment of special border economic zones or joint industrial parks
- reforms in investment policies in backbone services (e.g., cross-border finance or transport services)
- mutual recognition of skills arrangements
- collaboration in training and education services
- harmonized visa regimes for business people

# Potential new areas

## *Indicative actions or activities*

- seminar or conferences to increase awareness and understanding of issues in recent negotiations or agreements
  - sharing of best practice to support business services and linkages, particularly SMEs in the global or regional trade
  - inter-subregional dialogue to share updates and discuss lessons learned in sub-regional trade arrangements
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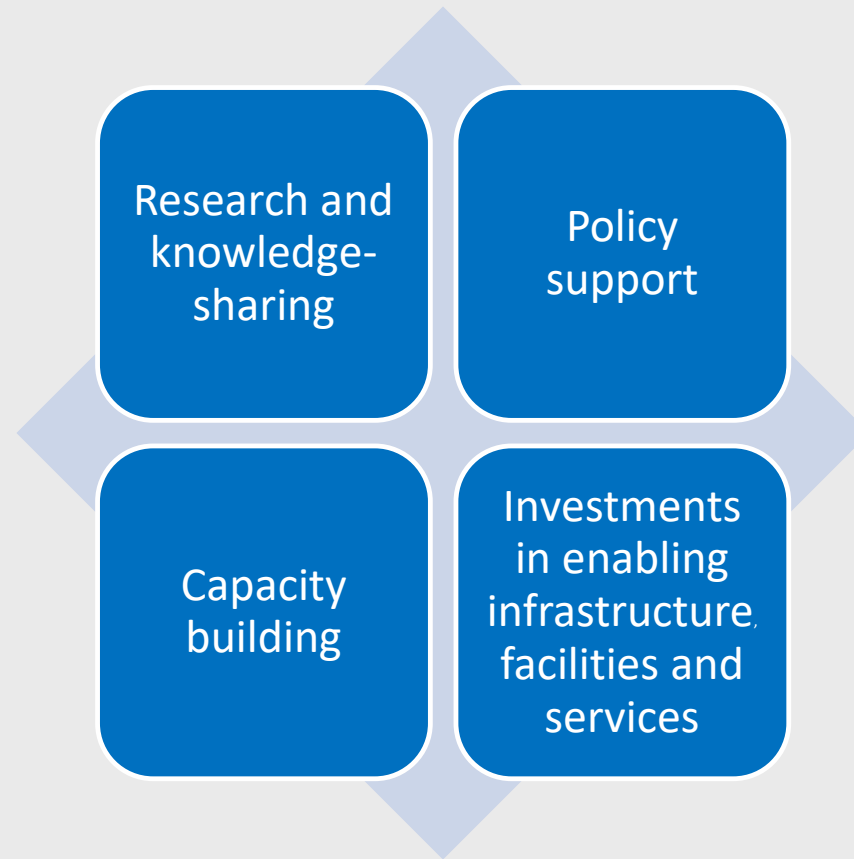
# Trade governance & institutional strengthening

## *Indicative actions or activities*

- establishment and strengthening of NCTFs
  - streamlining regulations and procedures affecting trade, services and investment facilitation
  - research or analytical work e.g., effect of existing and potential trade agreements
  - capacity-building for trade negotiations
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# Areas of support



# Institutional structure

- Regional Trade Group to discuss trade policy and trade facilitation work for synergy, better coordination and effectiveness
    - Coordinate with NCTFs
    - Reporting to CAREC Ministerial Conference
  - Customs Cooperation Committee to continue customs cooperation functions
  - Active and early involvement of all relevant stakeholders (development partners, research institutions and private sector) and cooperation with other regional cooperation mechanisms
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# Timeline and next steps

