



Terms of Reference

National Workshop on Potential CAREC-wide FTA for Azerbaijan

TA-6558 REG: Strengthening Knowledge and Capacities for the Design and Implementation of Free Trade Agreements (FTA) Involving Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Countries (CAREC)

Name and type of the event: National Workshop on potential CAREC-wide FTA

Objectives of the event, expected results:

The National Workshops are aimed at building national consensus in CAREC Developing member countries (DMC), the governments of which have expressed the strongest interest to prepare and pursue negotiations towards an eventual CAREC-wide FTA. The major objective of this Workshop is to raise awareness among a broad range of interested stakeholders, of the potential of the CAREC region and the benefits that a CAREC-wide FTA could offer. The Workshop is intended to launch a broad-based and inclusive public discussion on the topic and target a wide range of stakeholders at the national level – public and private sectors, industry associations, research centers, and other interested parties.

The Workshop will be facilitated by the project team, but the primary objective will be to have the participation and contribution from the research team and a DMC official at a senior level. This approach will ensure in-depth discussion based on the research report and high-level engagement from national stakeholders.

Expected number of participants: 40-45 participants in total.

Who should participate (possible agencies, level of participants):

Mid- and senior-level public officials responsible for trade policy, business chambers and associations, relevant civil society organizations.

Who should be speaker, presenter, trainer:

The ADB representative will open the event and lead the wrap-up session. The senior-level official (Chief Trade Negotiator, Deputy Minister) will present the national approach towards the potential CAREC wide FTA. The FTA Capacity Building team will moderate the session 2 with the research team presenting results of the study and recommendations.

Coverage of the event: National

Duration and format of the event: 2 hours/ Online format

Proposed date: 31 May 2023, 9:30 am – 11:30 am (Baku time)



National Workshop on potential CAREC-wide FTA

Date: 31 May 2023 (Wednesday)

Time: 09:30 – 11:30 (Baku time) / 13:30 – 15:30 (Manila time)

Duration: 2 hours

Event format: Online, via ZOOM

Time	Session
9:00-9:30	Signing up; video/audio connection checks
	Moderator: Ms. Zulfia Karimova , Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector and Regional Cooperation Division (EAPF), East Asia Department (EARD), ADB
09:30-09:50	Session 1: Welcome Remarks and Objectives of the Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ms. Gulchin Alasgarova, Deputy Head, Trade and Foreign Investment Policy Department, Ministry of Economy▪ Ms. Zulfia Karimova, ADB
09:50	GROUP PHOTO
09:50-10:50	Session 2: Key Recommendations/Results of the Research Report <p>Moderator: Mr. Simon Lacey, FTA Capacity Building Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Dr. Richard Pomfret to present the benefits of negotiating a CAREC-wide FTA (20 mins)▪ Dr. David Roland-Holst to present the econometric findings from the research study (20 mins)▪ Q&A Session with participants (20 mins)
10:50-11:15	Session 3: Response from Azerbaijan <p>Moderator: Mr. Mikheil Janelidze, Capacity Building Project Team, Team leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Presentation of Azerbaijan's current trade policy and FTA priorities by a senior member of the trade policy political leadership (<i>tbc</i>) (15 mins)▪ Q&A Session with participants (10 мин)
11:15-11:30	Session 4: Wrap-up, Summary and Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Ms. Gulchin Alasgarova,▪ Mr. Mikheil Janelidze▪ Ms. Zulfia Karimova, ADB