

# 22nd Meeting of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Customs Cooperation Committee

9-10 June 2023, Tbilisi Georgia

## 22<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (CAREC) CUSTOMS COOPERATION COMMITTEE (CCC)

9-10 June 2023

Tbilisi Marriott Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA



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MEETING DOCUMENTS

#### Objectives

- (1) Based on WCO theme of establishing a culture of learning, members to present specific actions and initiatives undertaken to establish a knowledge-management and knowledge sharing system, including collaborating with other stakeholders to ensure rigor in data collection and analysis.
- (2) To review the implementation status of and progress of ongoing trade facilitation-related projects under the CCC framework and the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030
- (3) To consider proposals to enhance capacity of customs in implementing green trade policies
- (4) To agree on the CCC workplan for 2023-2024 and discuss planned regional and sub-regional studies and capacity building activities under CCC priority areas
- (5) To [announce] the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Exchange System (*tbc*)

#### Participation (by invitation only)

Focal points to the Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC), High-level CAREC Customs Officials, Asian Development Bank, World Customs Organization, other relevant officials, experts, and development partners.

**Chair:** Mr. **Samson Uridia**, Head of Department for International Relations, Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia

**Co-Chair:** Ms. **Emma Fan**, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB

#### 9 June 2023 (Friday)

09:30 – 10:00 (Tbilisi time)	<b>Registration</b>
10:00 – 10:20	<b>Opening Remarks</b>  Mr. <b>Vladimer Khundadze</b> , Deputy Director General, Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia  <b>Welcome Remarks</b>

	<p>Ms. <b>Emma Fan</b>, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. <b>Samson Uridia</b>, Head of Department for International Relations, Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia</p>
10:20 – 10:30	<p><b>Keynote Address</b></p> <p><b>World Customs Organization 2023 Theme:</b> <i>“Promoting a Culture of Knowledge-Sharing and Professional Pride in Customs” (10 minutes)</i></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b> Mr. <b>Kunio Mikuriya</b>, Secretary General, World Customs Organization (<i>pre-recorded</i>)</p>
10:30 – 11:00	<p><b>Group Photo Session/Coffee Break</b></p>
11:00 -12:15	<p><b>Session 1: Ongoing CCC/Trade Facilitation Initiatives</b></p> <p><i>This session will i) review implementation status and progress of ongoing trade facilitation- related projects under the CCC framework and CITA 2030 and ii) seek suggestions from CAREC member countries on how the outcomes be made useful to the trading community:</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Mr. <b>Max Ee</b> and Mr. <b>Julius Santos</b>, CPMM Consultants - <i>Results of the CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) 2022 Annual Report (15 minutes)</i></li> <li>ii) Mr. <b>Bahodir Ganiev</b> - <i>Initial Findings and Preliminary Recommendations of CAREC Study on Transit Trade Facilitation in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan (15 minutes)</i></li> <li>iii) Mr. <b>Nigel Moore</b> - <i>Updates and Workplan for the CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange between Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan for 2023-2024 (15 minutes)</i></li> </ul> <p>Open Discussion (<i>30 minutes</i>)</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB</p>
12:15 – 13:00	<p><b>Session 2: Green Customs</b></p> <p><i>As a follow-up from the CAREC Webinar on Digital Technologies and Green Customs held in October 2022, the session will present the Green Customs’ Initiative and how to strengthen custom’s role in implementing green trade policies and various multilateral environmental agreements.</i></p>

	<p><b>Speaker:</b> Mr. <b>Jiabin Qin</b>, Technical Attaché, Compliance and Facilitation, World Customs Organization (15 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (30 minutes)</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. <b>Yuebin Zhang</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank</p>
13:00 – 14:30	<b>Lunch</b>
14:30 – 16:30	<p><b>Session 3: Around the Table by Heads of Country Delegations</b></p> <p><i>Based on WCO theme of establishing a culture of learning, heads of country delegations are requested to present specific actions and initiatives undertaken to establish a knowledge-management and knowledge sharing system, including collaborating with other stakeholders to ensure rigor in data collection and analysis. Presenters are also requested to identify areas where ADB technical assistance is needed.</i></p> <p><b>Interventions:</b> CAREC member countries (Each country will be given 8-10 minutes to intervene/present)</p> <p>Open Discussion (20 minutes)</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. <b>Samson Uridia</b>, Head of Department for International Relations, Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia</p>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>
17:00 – 17:30	<p><b>Session 4: CCC Progress and Workplan 2023-2024</b></p> <p><i>ADB will present the CCC progress and workplan 2023-2024 and customs-related priority projects under ADB technical assistance to enhance capacity of the CAREC customs agencies. The session will also i) present details of the planned collaboration with Korea Customs Service given the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding and Joint Action Plan 2024-2026; and ii) introduce the “ADB Study to Enhance and Accelerate the Implementation of the AEO Program in Central Asia”.</i></p> <p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <p>Ms. <b>Zulfia Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB (10 minutes)</p> <p>Mr. <b>Dennis Pantastico</b>, AEO Expert, ADB Consultant (10 minutes)</p>



	<p>Open Discussion ( <i>10 minutes</i> )</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. <b>Emma Fan</b>, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB</p>
17:30 – 18:00	<p><b>Wrap Up and Closing Session of Day 1</b></p> <p>Mr. <b>Samson Uridia</b>, Head of Department for International Relations, Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia</p> <p>Ms. <b>Emma Fan</b>, Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB</p>
19:00 – 21:00	<p><b>Welcome Dinner to be hosted by Georgia Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance</b></p>
<p><b>10 June 2023 (Saturday)</b></p>	
09:30– 10:00	<p><b>Registration and Morning Coffee</b></p>
10:00 – 10:45	<p><b>Session 5: Panel Discussion: Development Partners Intervention ( 5 minutes each )</b></p> <p>Mr. <b>Yann Duval</b>, Chief of Trade Facilitation Unit, Trade and Investment Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) <i>*virtual</i></p> <p>Mr. <b>Jiabing Qin</b>, Technical Attaché, Compliance and Facilitation, World Customs Organization</p> <p>Ms. <b>Lasma Bogdane</b>, BOMCA Component 3 Leader Assistant and Head of Customs Co-operation and Development Division, National Customs Board State Revenue Service of Latvia <i>*virtual</i></p> <p>Ms. <b>Kamola Khusnutdinova</b>, Secretary, United Nations / Center for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT)</p> <p>Ms. <b>Bano Burki</b>, Trade Resilience Team Lead, USAID Trade Central Asia Activity</p> <p>Mr. <b>Yuebin Zhang</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Open Discussion ( <i>15 minutes</i> )</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. <b>Zulfiya Karimova</b>, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB</p>
10:45 – 11:15	<p><b>Session 6: Plenary Session: Adoption of Joint Statement ( 30 minutes )</b></p> <p>Presenter: Mr. <b>Samson Uridia</b>, Head of Department for International Relations, Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia</p>

	Moderator: Ms. <b>Emma Fan</b> , Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB
11:15 – 11:30	<b>Wrap up of Day 2 and Closing Session</b> (15 minutes)  Mr. <b>Samson Uridia</b> , Head of Department for International Relations, Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance of Georgia  Ms. <b>Emma Fan</b> , Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, East Asia Department, ADB
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30 – 16:00	<b>Site Visit to Tbilisi Customs Clearance Zone</b>