



Inaugural Meeting of the CAREC Regional Gender Expert Group
9-10 August 2022, Istanbul, Türkiye.

Day 1: Inaugural meeting (9 August)	
Time	Item
08:30–09:00	Registration
09:00–09:10	<p>Welcome Remarks <i>Lyaziza Sabyrova, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Hongju Zhao, Counsel at Director-General Level, Liaison Department, All-China Women's Federation (Virtual)</i></p>
09:10–09:40	<p>Introduction of Regional Gender Expert Group (RGE) representatives <i>Facilitated by Saad Paracha, CAREC Unit Head</i></p>
09:40–10:00	<p>Overview of the CAREC Gender Strategy 2030 and ADB-financed Promoting Gender Equality in the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Region Project <i>Xianshuang Zhang, CAREC Consultant</i> <i>Cathrine Mae V. Gonzales, CAREC Consultant (Virtual)</i></p>
10:00–10:15	Coffee Break
10:15–12:00	<p>Country Presentations (each country has 5 minutes to present and 5 minutes for open discussion) Presentations by RGE representative from each member country, focusing on country strategies, policies, and initiatives to promote women's economic and social empowerment.</p> <p>Each presentation may include the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key policies and institutions on gender equality; • Availability of any specific policies and national programmes related to women's economic empowerment, their results (if any); • 1 example of proven best practice. <p>Presenting order: AZE - Mr. Farid Adilov GEO - Ms. Ketevani Tatuashvili KAZ - Ms. Bibigul Masserbayeva & Ms. Saltanat Abdikarimova KGZ - Ms. Gulmira Okoeva MON - Ms. Solongo Sharkhuu PAK - Mr. Shahzad Ahmad Khan & Ms. Neelofar Jahangir PRC - Ms. Hongju Zhao (Virtual)</p>

	<p>TAJ - Ms. Javokhir Akobirova TKM - Ms. Shemshat Atajanova (on-site) & Ms. Leyli Myratdurdyeva (Virtual) UZB - Mr. Bakhodir Kakharov (Virtual)</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Saad Paracha, CAREC Unit Head</i></p>
12:00	Group Photo
12:00–13:30	Lunch / Networking time
13:30–13:45	<p>Presentation of the Draft RGEG Terms of Reference (ToRs) <i>Saad Paracha, CAREC Unit Head</i></p>
13:45–15:00	<p>Discussion: RGEG's feedback on the Draft TOR <i>Facilitated by Saad Paracha, CAREC Unit Head</i></p>
15:00–15:15	Coffee Break
15:15–15:30	<p>Presentation of the Draft RGEG Workplan <i>Dono Abdurazak, CAREC Consultant</i></p>
15:30–16:45	<p>Discussion: RGEG's feedback on the Draft Workplan RGEG representatives will discuss the key activities (gender database, CAREC women business network, etc.).</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Dono Abdurazak, CAREC Consultant</i></p>
16:45	End of Day
19:00	Dinner Reception

Day 2: Forum on Women Economic Empowerment (10 August)	
Time	Item
09:00–09:15	Recap of Day 1 and Overview of Day 2 <i>Saad Paracha, CAREC Unit Head, ADB</i>
09:15 –10:30	<p>Keynote: Leadership Journeys (Presentation 10 minutes each, Panel Discussion 30 minutes, Q&A 15 minutes) Women leaders in business and social fields will share their personal journeys of becoming leaders.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Fariel Salahuddin, <i>the first-place awardee of Cartier Impact Awards; Founder and CEO of UpTrade (Goats for water) in Pakistan</i> 2. Ms. Gulbakhor Makhkamova, <i>Founder of the Association of Women-Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Tajikistan</i> 3. Ms. Mujde Esin, <i>Founder of the award-winning KizCode (GirlCode) in Turkey</i> <p>Moderated by Ms. Samantha Huang, <i>Chief of Gender Equality Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB</i></p>
10:30–10:45	Coffee Break
10:45 -12:00	<p>Panel Presentations on Best Practices: Women Economic and Social Empowerment (Presentation 10 minutes each, Panel Discussion 30 minutes, Q&A 15 minutes) The panel speakers will present the best practices in women economic and social empowerment initiatives in CAREC region, focusing on the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Women in finance: Ms. Keiko Nowacka, <i>Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB</i> 2. Women in agriculture and trade: Prof. Dinora Azimova, <i>Professor, Founder of Mohira Bonu (NGO)</i> 3. Women Workers in the Informal Economy and Social Protection: Ms. Mary Alice G. Rosero, <i>Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB</i> <p>Moderated by Malika Shagzatova <i>Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), ADB</i></p>
12:00–12:05	Wrap Up of the Morning <i>Saad Paracha, CAREC Unit Head, ADB</i>
12:05–13:30	Lunch with Guests from Development Partners
13:30–14:30	<p>Open Discussion with Development Partners Representatives of Development Partners (DPs) will share their initiatives of women economic empowerment in the Central and West Asia region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ana Pashalishvili, <i>Advisor, Women’s Economic Empowerment, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sammar Essmat, <i>International Finance Corporation, Gender Lead, Middle East, Central Asia and Turkey, Gender and Economic Inclusion Group</i> • Ms. Bharati Sadasivam, <i>Team Leader, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support United Nations Development Programme Istanbul Regional Hub (Virtual)</i> <p><i>Moderated by Dono Abdurazak, CAREC Consultant</i></p>
14:30–14:45	Coffee Break
14:45–15:45	<p>Open Discussion with The Women Entrepreneurs Association of Turkey (KAGIDER) and Women Entrepreneurs</p> <p>KAGIDER team will share their successful approach and projects in empowering women through entrepreneurship, followed by an open discussion with KAGIDER team and women entrepreneur members of KAGIDER, focusing on how to build opportunities, reform policies, and develop diverse models to support female entrepreneurs.</p> <p>KAGIDER Staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begüm Bayrak, <i>Project and International Relations Manager</i> • Ceren Türkmen, <i>International Relations and Foreign Trade Assistant Specialist</i> • Melisa Özakman, <i>Projects and Content Assistant, KAGIDER</i> <p>KAGIDER Members (women entrepreneurs):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filiz Akkaş <p><i>Moderated by Dono Abdurazak, CAREC Consultant</i></p>
15:45	Meeting concludes

Note: the highlighted participants/speakers/moderators are joining the event virtually.