



## CAREC CONFERENCE ON DIGITAL TRADE AND INNOVATIONS

# CAREC DIGITAL STRATEGY 2030

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# Digital CAREC: Why now?

- Accelerated digital transformation driven by COVID-19 restrictions, economic crisis, and increased poverty
- Growing digital divide between digital haves and have nots in the region
- Opportunity in crisis: towards a resilient and inclusive economy
- Opportunity to boost regional cooperation for digital transformation with a shared vision and objectives

# Digital Dividends: Jobs, Growth, New Services

Digital Transformation of CAREC 2030 priority clusters

Leadership  
Governance  
Investment

Policy  
Enablers &  
Safeguards  
(Data, AI,  
Cybersecurity)

Infrastructure  
Resilience  
Platforms

Skills and  
Competencies

Innovation  
Entrepreneurship  
ICT  
Competitiveness

# CAREC Digital Strategy 2030: Strategic Objectives

- Promote investment into broadband infrastructure
- Harmonization of digital and data legislature
- Reduce barriers to cross-border trade
- Empower digital transformation at the sectoral level
- Develop digital skills and competencies
- Strengthen CAREC's innovation ecosystem

These objectives have received analytical inputs from partner organizations, including CAREC Institute and UNESCAP.

# Digital Trade

Under activities for digital trade, the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 suggests the following areas:

- **E-Logistics:**

Developing digital trading platforms for the region to reduce transaction costs, improve transparency and accountability, and reduce delays and other associated risks.

- **E-Commerce:**

Adoption of digital trade to enhance new sectors such as e-commerce by promoting collaboration in customs systems and digital taxation via solutions such as online licensing and certification, unified checkpoint models, electronic queues at border points, and information sharing mechanisms.

- **CAREC Cross-border services and e-Customs:**

CAREC member countries can adopt a architectural blueprint for regional systems to facilitate e-commerce and cross-border trade, to lower transaction costs and increase the volume and speeds of commercial transactions,

Business process re-engineering should be based on the 'digital by default' principle to support paperless transactions across the region.

# Next Steps

- The Strategy is to be presented for endorsement at the CAREC Ministerial Conference in November 2021.
- After endorsement, the implementation will begin in 2022.
  - A steering committee, with government nominated members, will be formed to assess the entry points for implementation.
  - The steering committee will consider the priority areas decided by the working groups under the Regional Trade Group and by the Customs Cooperation Committee (with a focus on customs technology).
  - Inputs from other key stakeholders, such as the private sector, will also be considered by the steering committee.