



CAREC Women's Business Forum and Award Ceremony

29 November 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia

Amphitheatre – The Guild

Time	Item
Morning Sessions	Advancing Gender Equality in the Private Sector <i>*Joined by CAREC Regional Gender Expert Group (RGEG), awardees, Jury members, guest speakers, development partners, CAREC Secretariat, ADB</i>
08:30–09:00	Registration – <u>Amphitheatre (The Guild)</u>
09:00–09:15	Opening – <u>Amphitheatre (The Guild)</u> Welcoming Remarks by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB) • Mr. Niko Tatulashvili, Advisor to Georgian Prime Minister on Human Rights
09:15–09:30	CAREC Women's Business Forum: Objectives and Expectations – <u>Amphitheatre (The Guild)</u> <i>Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRD, ADB</i>
09:30–10:45	Session 1: Drivers for Advancing Gender Equality in the Private Sector in the CAREC Region – <u>Amphitheatre (The Guild)</u> The session's objective is to identify key priority issues for the CAREC Gender program in promoting women's entrepreneurship, but also ensure that the private sector is more gender-responsive and favorable to women's empowerment. <i>Panel discussion moderated by Ms. Amanda Satterly, Principal Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), Gender Equality Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department (CCSD), ADB</i> Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Dilorom Fayzieva, MP and Chair of the Committee on International Relations of the National assembly of Uzbekistan • Ms. Maya Kobalia, Environmental and Social (E&S) Officer - MFO Crystal; 2019 UN Global Compact Network Georgia first SDG Pioneer; Chief Changemaker - Buzz Women Global, Georgia • Ms. Roshaneh Zafar, Founder of Kashf Foundation of Pakistan - the first ever microfinance organization serving women clients; board director of the Women's World Banking, the Pakistan Microfinance Network, Finca Bank, Kinnaird College for women

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mr. Can Sutken, Senior Investment Officer, Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program, Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD), Georgia Resident Mission (GRM), ADB</i>
10:45–11:00	<p>Coffee Break – <u>Pre-function Area of Amphitheatre</u></p> <p>Setting up breakout rooms.</p>
11:00 – 12:30	<p>Session 2: Parallel Sessions with Women Entrepreneurs</p> <p>Two parallel sessions will address (i) barriers women encounter in accessing finance, technology, and innovation, and (ii) formulate action plans to enhance support for women. The focus is on boosting financial and digital literacy, empowering women to make informed decisions, and managing resources effectively. The session will adopt a TED Talk style, followed by fireside chat interviews in breakout rooms based on topics.</p> <p><u>Session 2.1 [Breakout Room 1]: Access to Technology and Innovation – Amphitheatre (The Guild)</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Tamar Bortsvadze, Gender Officer, Gender Equality Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB</i></p> <p>Guest speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Rong Fei, Commercial Director of electronic World Trade Platform (eWTP), Alibaba Group, PRC (online)</i> • <i>Ms. Leyla Seyidzade, Women in TECH Ambassador for Azerbaijan, Head of Exploration, UNDP Accelerator Lab</i> • <i>Isabelle Carboni, Insights Director, GSMA</i> <p><u>Session 2.2 [Breakout Room 2]: Supporting Women in Accessing Finance - Meeting Room 8</u></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Ms. Gisela Garzon De La Roza, Senior International Private Sector Gender Specialist, Consultant, Gender and Equality Division, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, ADB</i></p> <p>Guest speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dildora Tadjibaeva, UZB, SME development Specialist of ADB Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Program in Uzbekistan (online)</i> • <i>Alejandra Cordero, Principal, Gender Advisor, Gender and Economic Inclusion, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, EBRD</i> • <i>Sophiko Skhirtladze, Project Management Specialist, Economic Growth, USAID/Georgia</i>
12:30–13:30	<p>Lunch - <u>Xeme Restaurant on the 31st floor</u></p>
Afternoon sessions	<p>Advancing Gender Equality in the Community</p> <p><i>*Joined by CAREC Regional Gender Expert Group (RGEG), awardees, Jury members, guest speakers, development partners, CAREC, ADB</i></p>
13:30–14:45	<p>Session 3: Drivers for Advancing Gender Equality in the Community in the CAREC Region – <u>Amphitheatre (The Guild)</u></p> <p>The session aims to increase awareness and understanding among the audience about the status of gender equality in the CAREC region, showcase and discuss best practices and successful initiatives that have advanced gender equality in different CAREC region, and to identify and explore the key drivers and factors that have significantly contributed to advancing gender equality in the CAREC region.</p>

	<p><i>*Panel discussion moderated by Ms. Tsolmon Begzsuren, Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), CCSD, ADB</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ms. Kaori Ishikawa, UN Women Country Representative in Georgia and Liaison for the South Caucasus</i> • <i>Ms. Le Wang, Save the Children Representative to the UN, Director of the New York global Advocacy office, Members of the International Gender Champion, PRC (Online)</i> • <i>Ms. Sukhjargalmaa Dugersuren, Member of the National Committee on Gender Equality of Mongolia, Head of the National Gender Experts' Group at the National Committee on Gender Equality, Mongolia</i> • <i>Meruert Makhmutova, Director of the Public Policy and Research Center (PPRC) in Kazakhstan</i>
14:45–15:00	<p>Coffee Break – <u>Pre-function Area of Amphitheatre</u></p> <p>Setting up breakout rooms.</p>
15:00 – 16:30	<p>Session 4: Envisioning Gender Equality 2030 in CAREC and Regional Collaboration – <u>Meeting Room 8</u></p> <p>The session aims to foster regional collaboration and collect ideas for achieving "Inclusion, Empowerment, and Resilience for All" in the CAREC region. The participants will discuss current challenges and priorities in the CAREC region in achieving gender equality, women's empowerment, and social inclusion and propose solutions, as well as recommend concrete action in implementing the CAREC gender strategy. They will also provide suggestions for next Women's Business Fora.</p> <p><i>Breakout Sessions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide participants into groups and explain the task (5 minutes) • Each group will identify key challenges and priorities in the region for the CAREC Gender Strategy 2030 implementation and women in business (25 minutes) • Break (5 min) • Each group will identify solutions and propose action, as well as identify next steps, assign responsibilities and set timelines (25 minutes) • Report to the plenary (30 minutes) • Q&A, discussions (10 minutes) • Wrap-up (5 minutes) <p>Facilitators: <i>Dono Abdurazakova, CAREC Gender Specialist</i> <i>Solongo Sharkhuu, CAREC Gender Specialist</i> <i>Xianshuang Zhang, CAREC Gender Specialist</i></p>
16:30 – 17:00	<p>Closing – <u>Meeting Room 8</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Feedback from participants</i> • <i>Ms. Mariam Kharebashvili, CAREC RGEF Member, Specialist, Human Rights Secretariat, Administration of the Government of Georgia</i> • <i>Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</i>