

**U.S. Intervention for 21st CAREC Virtual Ministerial Conference
November 24, 2024**

*Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive
Recovery*

Vice President Chen, Deputy Minister Xia, Excellencies, ladies and gentleman.

Today in the U.S. is the American holiday of Thanksgiving. It is a day that we pause and give thanks for all the blessings we have received in the past year. We have much to be thankful for as our planet recovers from the difficult years of this global pandemic.

The United States is fully committed to supporting CAREC efforts to improve the region's sustainability through a green, inclusive, and sustainable recovery. This is a timely and essential issue for CAREC, for its members and for its partners - as part of post-pandemic recovery following the recent COP27 discussion in Sharm El-Sheikh. Sustainability is the critical issue in relation to the environment, trade and transit, infrastructure, and the conditions necessary to support finance and development across all of these sectors.

A green, sustainable, and inclusive recovery is one that recognizes that both the impacts of climate change and the strategies to address it are inherently transboundary, and thus require collective action. From our various corners of the globe, CAREC members and partners continue to both experience and witness the existential threats posed by climate change to our people, and our planet. Extreme weather events, growing water scarcity, drought, and floods have displaced communities, disrupted livelihoods, and increased food insecurity. My home is in California where we have seen terrible fires, devastating floods, and thousands of displaced people.

A green, sustainable, and inclusive recovery must also embrace the full and free participation of women in the economy and in governance. Addressing the regulatory and legal barriers that preclude women's full participation creates opportunities to empower women as key drivers of economic resilience and recovery.

The United States applauds CAREC's focus on agricultural development, green energy, and addressing climate change as a crosscutting theme under the 2030 agenda. Through efforts to support climate smart agriculture, clean energy

transition, and sustainable development, we seek to help countries and communities to climate-proof their infrastructure, including their water, energy, and food systems. We are also helping partners to access public and private finance to support these efforts.

The United States is proud to highlight that we are on track to meet our own ambitious climate targets here at home, including through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)—the single most consequential piece of climate legislation in U.S. history. This law puts the United States on track to achieve President Biden’s ambitious goal to cut U.S. emissions by 50-52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and confirms that we will both deliver on our climate commitments and encourage climate innovation for many years to come.

The United States remains committed to helping CAREC governments pursue development in a way that preserves their sovereignty and serves the interests of their communities and their citizens.

Lastly, the United States will continue to support policies and programs that help make the CAREC vision of sustainable and connected development a reality. On this Thanksgiving Day, we offer our thanks to all of our CAREC partners for the strong cooperation and honest dialogue that makes CAREC strong.

Thank you.