

## Draft Terms of Reference for the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change

### Background

The CAREC region faces significant impacts from climate change today, which are expected to aggravate further, as demonstrated in the [CAREC Climate Change Scoping Study](#). Addressing the causes and effects of climate change in the region is of the highest urgency. It will require prompt and effective national and regional responses. CAREC is well placed as a platform to coordinate climate action in the region.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference in November 2023 adopted the CAREC Climate Change Vision (CCC Vision). The CCC Vision represents an ambitious agenda designed to ensure adequate regional climate action by CAREC member countries and development partners during 2024–2030.

### Role and Functions

The role of the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC) is to support the CAREC Climate Change Steering Committee's (CCSC) efforts on climate action with technical advice and substantive input in the following areas of the CCSC's responsibility, including decisions regarding the appropriate sequencing of the various activities to be pursued:

- Coordinate with and guide other CAREC institutions and sector-specific committees and working groups in the review of the strategies, action plans, and project portfolios of the five priority clusters and cross-cutting priorities to ensure alignment with and support for the implementation of the CAREC Climate Change Vision;
- Develop the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan;
- Develop the CAREC climate project portfolio;
- Ensure that the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan and climate project portfolio are aligned with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Climate Strategies and Plans for adaptation and mitigation of CAREC countries, as applicable;
- Identify and develop specific regional initiatives to strengthen the enabling environment for climate action by harmonizing the legal and regulatory environment and by building capacity;
- Build and maintain a multistakeholder consensus across the region;
- Gather and share best practices for regional climate action;
- Develop and launch a strategic communications plan for CAREC's Climate Change Action Plan;
- Work with development partners to seek and secure project funding for regional climate projects and avoid duplication of efforts;
- Build public-private partnerships for regional climate action;
- Annually report to the CAREC Ministerial Conference on the implementation progress of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan;
- Review and update the CAREC Climate Vision document and the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan every three years to adapt to changing conditions and needs; and

- The Working Group will meet at least twice per year. During 2024, the CAREC Secretariat will chair the WGCC, after which the CAREC host country representative will chair the meetings.

The CAREC Secretariat will provide organizational support for the Working Group and prepare draft documents for its review, input, and, where appropriate, endorsement.