

**5th Ministerial Conference on
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
20 October 2006
Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, People's Republic of China**

**Closing Statement
Azerbaijan**

Mr. Chairman!
Distinguished guests!
Ladies and gentlemen!

First of all let me again express my deep gratitude to the Government of China and Xinjiang for the warm welcome and kind hospitality and to the Asian Development Bank for the excellent arrangements.

Today we held very fruitful discussions on strategic directions of the CAREC program covering all areas within program activities.

In my opinion, and I think it is commonly agreed, the Fifth Ministerial Conference was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

So let me briefly summarize the fifth Ministerial conference of the CAREC program, and share our views on it.

Comprehensive action plan, which is the strategic paper of the CAREC program, was thoroughly reviewed and we heard here many good points from countries' delegates on future action plan and how CAREC program should develop in the future. The Comprehensive Action Plan provides us with strategic directions in the regional cooperation, development of economic and business relations between CAREC member countries and their private sector representatives, promotes creation of efficient multimodal transport system and trade expansion, considers energy security issues. At the same time two-tier system applied in the Comprehensive Action Plan gives us opportunity to place particular emphasis on such regional challenges as avian and human influenza, HIV/AIDS, disaster management and preparedness and other issues on a regional scale. We all realize that we will be stronger if we unite our efforts and thus we can achieve success in our regional undertakings.

We also reviewed and adopted Urumchi Declaration which will enable our program officers with relevant guidelines for the next year and will provide strategic directions on the activities to be held.

I would like to mention very comprehensive and informative reports and presentations on Business Development Forum by EBRD, progress report on CAREC program and agenda for 2007, Report of Senior Officials and CAREC future development directions and prospects. This presentations and reports were very interesting and we enjoyed them very much.

I also want to thank our translators' team for the very clear and professional translation provided.

In conclusion, let me wish you all success in your future endeavors and have a nice trip.

Thank you.

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