



**Collective View of the Multilateral Institutions
Ninth Ministerial Conference:
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation
Cebu, Philippines
2 November 2010**

Mr. Chairman, President Kuroda, Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my pleasure to present the Joint Multilateral Institutions' Statement to the CAREC Ministerial Conference on behalf of ADB, EBRD, IMF, IsDB, UNDP, and World Bank.
2. All of the multilateral institutions express their deepest appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan for chairing this ninth Ministerial Conference. Your chairmanship this year sends out an important signal to the world that Afghanistan, and the entire CAREC region, continues to recognize the importance of regional cooperation to advance our shared economic and development aspirations.
3. We congratulate the CAREC countries for the progress achieved since the last ministerial conference held in Ulaanbaatar. CAREC is indeed in full implementation mode of its priority sector strategies and action plans. The strong support given by CAREC ministers to the recommendations of the senior officials meeting should boost the momentum of policy development and project implementation.
4. The multilateral institutions (MIs) are ready to continue assisting the CAREC countries in their priority regional initiatives in the core sectors of transport, energy and trade. We remain committed to CAREC, and this is evident in our collective support of about \$2 billion dollars in loans and grants in 2010.
5. On behalf of the MIs, it is my pleasure to welcome Turkmenistan and Pakistan to the CAREC Program. Their inclusion will no doubt broaden the dimensions of economic cooperation in the region. We look forward to working closely with our country partners to ensure smooth and efficient integration of Turkmenistan and Pakistan into CAREC.
6. CAREC is at an important crossroad. We are about to embark on the tenth year of our overall institutional framework. What we formulate in the coming year will be instrumental in charting the course of CAREC into its next decade. The first part of the 10-year commemorative study – the 10-year stock-taking – has been completed and it provided much needed lessons to guide the future of CAREC. We look forward to the second part of the study, which will look into the Comprehensive Action Plan so that it could address the challenges identified in the stock take and taking into account a continuing fragile global economic environment.

7. Going forward, we believe that CAREC's strategies and action plans remain relevant. Sector coordinating committees should continue to actively pursue their action plans. Physical investments need to be complemented by soft infrastructure initiatives. We agree that accelerating project implementation remains a priority.

8. We support the recommendations of the CAREC Institute assessment regarding the importance of capacity building and institutional development to achieve the overall CAREC objectives.

9. Increased ownership by CAREC countries is key to the effective implementation of the Comprehensive Action Plan and sector strategies. This includes, among others, ensuring sufficiently high-level, consistent, and active participation of their officials within the sector committees.

10. CAREC also needs to formulate and agree on a medium-term rolling pipeline of projects that reflects regional priorities and helps identify financing gaps. In this regard, we recommend that the CAREC strategies and priorities be adequately mainstreamed into the country-based development plans and public investment programs. The multilateral institutions will work more diligently in partnership with the CAREC countries to help make this convergence between regional and national planning possible. Also, the MIs agreed on the importance of branding the CAREC name in all CAREC initiatives.

11. More financial and technical resources will have to be mobilized from existing and new sources. We encourage increased private sector involvement, including public-private partnerships for CAREC projects. We believe that CAREC needs to broaden and deepen engagement with other aid agencies, and, in this regard, we look forward to a development partners' meeting to be held during the 10-year commemoration next year.

12. We are pleased with CAREC's increasing results orientation. The results framework will help reflect quantitative and qualitative achievements of the program's goals and objectives. It will complement CAREC's work on developing a clear project pipeline.

13. The multilateral institutions intend to improve coordination with each other by having regular and focused dialogue. By accomplishing this, we would provide better support to national and regional priorities.

Honorable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. We will continue to provide technical and financial support to CAREC. We reiterate our request to CAREC countries to exercise greater leadership in the Program, set the strategic directions for regional cooperation, mainstream regional cooperation in national planning, play a more active role in the sector coordinating committees, and mobilize financial and technical resources.

15. We must work together in a more concerted manner and find solutions to the challenges of regional cooperation using CAREC as a platform. Stronger and more sustainable growth should be possible through closer cooperation.

16. In this regard, we would like to commend the ADB for its vision in creating CAREC and its leadership, its staff, and its financing to keep this important regional platform growing. We

know how costly it is in terms of financial and human resources to operate this platform, and thank President Kuroda for his personal commitment to CAREC.

17. Allow me to end by expressing our sincere appreciation to the Government of Afghanistan for their outstanding leadership this year.

18. Let me also extend our thanks to the country delegates who have come so far to attend this meeting and have made it a success. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Delivered by Mr. Motoo Konishi, Regional Director for Central Asia, World Bank, on behalf of the CAREC partner multilateral institutions: Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Monetary Fund, Islamic Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and World Bank.