



**Statement by Mr. Abzal Abdikarimov
Vice Minister, Ministry of National Economy and CAREC National Focal Point
Republic of Kazakhstan
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Dear Mr. Scott Morris, dear Mr. Levan Davitashvili, dear Colleagues,

Let me, on behalf of the Government of Kazakhstan, welcome everyone and express my sincere gratitude to the ADB, the CAREC secretariat and personally Mr. Levan Davitashvili for organizing this conference.

Thank you very much to the Asian Development Bank for the prepared presentations and updates on key CAREC results.

Today's agenda includes some important topics. One of these topics is the CAREC Climate Change Vision and the concept of the Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund.

In a world where the challenges of climate change are becoming ever more pressing, the CAREC program is one of the key platforms in shaping a sustainable future for our countries and the region as a whole.

It is essential to acknowledge that climate change is an integral part of the global agenda, and we need to take concrete action to mitigate its impacts.

Kazakhstan is actively involved in international regulation of environmental protection and chemical safety issues. We have ratified many international agreements and conventions in this area. The national legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan is also aimed at the implementation of measures to protect the environment and combat climate change.

Kazakhstan has adopted an ambitious long-term strategy for achieving carbon neutrality until 2060.

The main attention is paid specifically to the process of transition through the establishment of a new model of economic development that is resistant to climate change. The result of the work is the achievement of carbon neutrality.

Restructuration of the national economy for low-carbon development and achieving carbon neutrality must consider the climate change risks in all sectors of the economy. This will make decarbonization measures more resilient to climate change. An integral part of climate action, along with Kazakhstan's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, should be the adaptation of the economy and society to the transition to a low-carbon development. The most vulnerable sectors of the economy should be prioritized for adaptation measures.

The achievement of the strategy goal will be ensured through the comprehensive implementation of low-carbon policies and the application of sectoral (*energy, industry, agriculture and forestry, waste management*) and cross-cutting approaches (*fair transition, green financing, R&D and education, public awareness, international cooperation, adaptation to climate change, carbon management system*).

In sectoral approaches, the achievement of carbon neutrality will be ensured in three main sections.

First, decarbonization of processes and technologies for energy production and use.

This section covers large-scale measures to transform energy sectors. In particular, a shift towards more sustainable energy sources is expected through a gradual reduction in fossil fuels, a transition to the use of electricity and heat, as well as alternative and renewable energy sources. The development of renewable energy sources will be a key condition for successful decarbonization, in particular wind and solar energy.

Second, decarbonization of non-energy processes and technologies.

This section involves increasing carbon efficiency, which means using low or zero-emission approaches in industrial processes, developing sustainable agriculture and waste management. Further development of the industry should be associated with equipment upgrades and restructuring of production through the separation of low-carbon and carbon-free production processes.

Third, takeover and compensation measures.

As part of this section, it is planned to increase the ability to accumulate carbon in forests, soils, and the active use of carbon capture and storage technologies.

Cross-cutting approaches involve the implementation of a fair transition, changes in the public consciousness, development of low-carbon technologies, attraction of climate finance, strengthening of international cooperation, implementation of climate adaptation measures, and creation of an effective carbon regulation system.

However, research and development, innovation and education are essential for low-carbon development and the transition to carbon neutrality and adaptation to the impacts of climate change. Transforming the economic structure of Kazakhstan within the framework of low-carbon development and transition to carbon neutrality will require scientific, technological and professional human resources.

Regarding the attraction of private investments from domestic and international sources for the transition to a green and carbon-neutral economy, pricing schemes in a number of sectors will be revised, in particular for electricity, heat, waste collection and sorting.

The regulatory and institutional framework will be improved, as well as the conditions for the development of innovative instruments and standards for green finance, as well as procedures for attraction of international investments, importing technologies and highly qualified personnel will be simplified.

In order to achieve those goals, Kazakhstan needs financial and institutional support from the international community to ensure a smoother energy transition for all sectors.

In conclusion, I would like to note that we support ADB's work in all areas and approve the draft documents submitted for consideration today.

Thank you for attention.