



**Statement by Mr. Kanat Abdrahmanov  
Adviser to the Minister of Economy and Commerce  
Kyrgyz Republic  
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Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program  
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Dear Mr. Davitashvili, dear Mr. Asakawa, dear colleagues,

First of all, let me express sincere gratitude to the Government of Georgia for the warm welcome at the 22nd Ministerial Conference of the Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program. I would also like to thank the Asian Development Bank and our other international development partners for their close collaboration and contributions to development, both within the CAREC program and on a bilateral basis.

Today's Ministerial Conference provides another unique opportunity to discuss key aspects of regional integration and enhance cooperation among CAREC member countries. This is particularly relevant in the challenging period of economic development in our region, and our country is ready for mutually beneficial cooperation with all interested participants, especially in the context of the green agenda.

I would like to announce that, in line with our international commitments to combat climate change, the Kyrgyz Republic is committed to transitioning to low-carbon development and achieving zero emissions by 2050. We are making every effort for a transformative shift towards a green economy.

It is no secret that the key barriers to the development of a green economy include environmentally harmful subsidies for fossil fuel extraction, artificially low prices for energy resources, competition from cheaper traditional "brown" technologies in the adoption of cleaner technologies, underdeveloped markets for "green" goods, and the inherent contradictions in state environmental and economic policies.

For over 20 years, within the CAREC program, we have collaborated to create multimodal transport networks, enhance energy security, break down trade barriers, and establish more open trade systems, simplifying procedures for the free movement of people and goods. However, today is the moment when we must think about the future of our descendants.

I believe that all countries in the region, faced with the real threat of climate change consequences, understand the necessity of Eurasian continent integration. The effect of

coordinated and cooperative efforts can significantly multiply the potential opportunities in each country of the region.

It is evident that individual countries would find it challenging to ensure their climate resilience and environmental safety in isolation from international and regional integration processes. Therefore, we must strive for a balance of interests among participating countries that would allow the rational use of available opportunities on a mutually beneficial basis.

Considering the above, we are pleased to endorse the "CAREC Climate Change Vision" and the proposed statement on the CAREC climate actions vision for the period until 2050: "A region of sustainable development, shared prosperity, and climate-resilience." Furthermore, we fully support the proposal to include climate actions as a cross-cutting priority in the CAREC 2030 Strategy.

As we all understand, with the deficit and high prices of many energy resources, renewable energy sources are increasingly taking precedence over traditional ones. Consequently, there is a significant need for additional resources to implement national and regional climate-oriented projects. Only by considering the objective interests of our countries and providing mutually beneficial conditions for each participating country can we hope for the viability and effectiveness of regional projects.

In this regard, we fully support the concept of the CAREC Climate Change Project Preparation Facility to ensure the necessary financing for project preparation and new climate change initiatives. This will undoubtedly contribute to achieving our goals of increasing climate resilience.

In conclusion, allow me to express once again sincere gratitude to the Government of Georgia for the excellent organization of the 22nd Ministerial Conference and to thank the Asian Development Bank for supporting the efforts of the Kyrgyz Republic in transitioning to sustainable economic development. I am confident in the continued fruitful, effective, and mutually beneficial regional cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.