



**Statement by Mr. Min Liao
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Distinguished Vice Premier Davitashvili, Distinguished President Asakawa, dear colleagues, good afternoon!

It's a great pleasure to meet you in Tbilisi, a city with historical and modern charm. On behalf of the Chinese government, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Georgia and the ADB for your efforts in preparing for this Conference.

Over the past year, CAREC member states and the ADB have made concerted efforts to implement the CAREC 2030 Strategy and the deliverables of the 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference, giving a strong boost to the green, sustainable, and inclusive economic recovery of the region. China highly appreciates these efforts and outcomes.

At present, the Central Asian economy has entered into a critical stage of post-epidemic recovery. Facing various problems such as insufficient external demand, food security, inflationary pressure, financial risks and frequent, severe natural disasters caused by climate change, it is highly challenging for this region to achieve sustainable, prosperous and resilient development. As pointed out by ADB and IMF colleagues. Against this background, we should revitalize regional cooperation to address these challenges. As the motto of this country Georgia says, "Strength in Unity". Taking this opportunity, I would like to make the following suggestions on this regard:

First, strengthen practical, solid cooperation to promote steady economic growth. Focusing on the pressing needs of members, it is necessary to strengthen the cooperation in agriculture, food, transportation and energy, to promote trade and investment facilitation, and maintain the smooth flow of industrial and supply chains in the region. It is also necessary to seize the opportunities brought by the new round of technological revolution and industrial transformation, with the development of the digital economy. We should promote cooperation in digital infrastructure and cross-border e-commerce on one hand, and make traditional industry digitized on the other hand, in order to foster new driving forces of economic growth.

Second, promote green development to address climate change. China fully supports the *CAREC Climate Change Vision*. We also welcome the establishment of the "CAREC Climate and

Sustainability Project Preparation Fund” which we believe could support the early-stage preparation of climate-related projects and help mitigate financing gap in the region.

There is an old saying in China that *“drink the northwest wind and bask in the sun”*, when we described that people are very poor and had nothing but wild wind and endless sunshine in Northwest China. However, solar and wind has become precious resources nowadays to support their renewable energy projects. They became the major players in China’s economic transition and high-quality development journey. Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia and other areas in China adjacent to Central Asia are willing to deepen cooperation with all parties to jointly promote regional green development.

Third, strengthen strategic alignment to create synergy for regional development. As you may know, President Xi Jinping announced eight new actions to support high-quality Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation, at the opening of the Third Belt and Road Summit held in October this year. CAREC should find more effective ways to strengthen coordination with multilateral cooperation initiatives such as the BRI and the Global Development Initiative, with member countries’ national development strategies, and also, to deepen partnerships with international organizations and think tanks, such as ADB, AIIB and CAREC Institute, to name a few. I want to emphasize that public and private partnerships are extremely important based upon China’s experience in the economic development and transition. We need to actively mobilize as much private sector resources as we could, to provide strong financial and entrepreneur’s support for the implementation of CAREC strategy.

Colleagues, this year marks the 45th anniversary of China’s reform and opening-up. There is no end of growth story in China. The fundamentals of the Chinese economy remain sound and stable, and we are confident to achieve this year’s GDP growth target of around 5%, highly likely we will be above this figure. China attaches greater importance to high-quality development, which means, while maintaining moderate economic growth ratio, we will boost the green and digital transformation, which have already contributed lion’s share to the GDP. China is making efforts to seriously honor its commitment in “30/60 Twin Carbon Targets”- Carbon Peak in 2030 and Carbon Neutrality in 2060. China is accelerating a new development pattern of “dual-circulation”, featuring balanced promotion of both domestic and international markets. As the more and more important economic and trade partners of China, Central Asian countries will benefit from the high-quality development and “dual-circulation” strategies of China. Looking forward, China is willing to further deepen the cooperation with all CAREC members, in order to make new contributions to the economic recovery, sustainable development, shared prosperity and climate resilience in the region!

Thank you!