



**Statement by Mr. Begmyrat Allakbayev
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Republic of Turkmenistan
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Dear Chairman, President of the Asian Development Bank, distinguished ministers of CAREC countries, distinguished participants of the 22nd CAREC Ministerial Conference,

Let me sincerely welcome you all and wish you constructive meetings, fruitful work, and good health.

On behalf of Turkmenistan, I would like to thank: the chairing country, Georgia, for its active chairing process and important contribution to the development of regional cooperation, all CAREC countries for constructive and productive work on the topical and important documents submitted today for endorsement, the speakers for the presentations. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Asian Development Bank, the CAREC Secretariat, and development partners for their continued constructive engagement.

Next, I would like to outline Turkmenistan's position on the key deliverables for 2023:

Turkmenistan Endorses the CAREC Climate Change Vision. Climate change has serious regional implications, and many climate issues need to be addressed on a regional basis to maximize impact.

In this regard, at the Plenary Meeting of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly held in September this year, Turkmenistan made a statement that "among the key areas of UN activities for the coming years, Turkmenistan considers addressing urgent climate and environmental challenges. Issues related to global commitments on methane are particularly emphasized among them."

As an important step in adopting a strategic approach to environmental problems in Central Asia, Turkmenistan has proposed the establishment of a specialized structure – the Regional Centre for Climate Change Technologies in Central Asia, which would work on climate issues in a systematic and substantive manner.

Within the framework of regional cooperation, Turkmenistan initiated the development of the Regional Environmental Protection Program for Sustainable Development of Central Asia, which will contribute to the achievement by the countries of the region of their obligations under the UN environmental conventions, the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the introduction of the principles of "green" economy.

Turkmenistan Endorses the Establishment of the CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund. To address climate change, countries in the region are actively mobilizing financial resources, but they are insufficient. In this regard, the establishment of the CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparation Fund is of vital importance because it will help prioritize financial resources for low-emission and climate-resilient development by supporting limiting or reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change, taking into account the needs of those countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Importantly, this fund will help attract investments not only from standard partner multilateral and bilateral organizations but also from numerous private, institutional, commercial and donor sources.

The Turkmen side endorses the CAREC Program 2030 Progress Report, which reflects the work done in each of the Program's clusters.

I would like to say a few words about the ongoing work under the second cluster, "Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors."

Turkmenistan expresses its gratitude to the Asian Development Bank, which, within the framework of the CAREC 2030 Integrated Trade Agenda and in close cooperation with the Accessions Division of the WTO Secretariat, provides practical assistance to our specialists.

Specifically, this year, in-person technical working sessions and virtual training events were held, and comprehensive support has been provided in the preparation of the first two clusters of the Memorandum on Foreign Trade Regime of Turkmenistan, which our country is preparing.

We highly appreciate the continued technical and advisory assistance to our country from the Asian Development Bank and development partners on our country's accession path to the World Trade Organization.

Further, I would like to mention that Turkmenistan is conducting internal procedures to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on the CAREC Advanced Transit System and the Information Common Exchange to join the Pilot Project.

Turkmenistan supports the Joint Ministerial Statement of the 22nd CAREC Ministerial Conference and the Joint Statement on Developing a Disaster Risk Transfer Facility in the CAREC Region

Dear chairman, distinguished heads and members of delegations, ladies and gentlemen, the key deliverables of the CAREC Program presented today respond to the challenges of our time and the medium-term tasks facing our countries.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the formation of regional initiatives on climate change will open up new opportunities for all of us on the path to green, sustainable and inclusive recovery, and strengthen our capacity to deal with possible risks.

Let me once again thank everyone for your proactive engagement, and the CAREC Secretariat for its work done.

Thank you for your attention.