

Talking Points for CAREC National Focal Points' Meeting

October 20th 14:30-16:00, No. 4th Meeting Room

Opening Remarks

Dear Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General of ADB's Central and West Asia Department;

Ms. Teresa Kho, Director General of ADB's East Asia Department;

Dear esteemed CAREC National Focal Points,

Dear Participants, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

It's my great pleasure to serve as Chair of this National Focal Points' Meeting. First of all, I would like to extend my warm welcome to all participants and thank ADB CAREC Secretariat for helping organize this meeting. To start our meeting, please allow me to give my opening remarks.

The main purpose of today's meeting is to discuss the proposed deliverables and arrangement for the upcoming 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference, which will be held virtually on 24th November this year. The Senior Officials' meeting held in June had discussed and agreed on the concept of the proposed deliverables and provided guidance for preparing the documents. After the Senior Official's Meeting, ADB secretariat together with CAREC Institute drafted the documents and solicited comments from CAREC members through a series of seminars. At today's meeting, National Focal Points of CAREC members will be invited to make comments and insights on the draft of the deliverables.

As Chair, I believe that those deliverables proposed by the CAREC secretariat are important, timely and relevant in the current regional context. Given that the the economic recovery in the region remains fragile and uncertain due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, disruptions in supply chains, sustained hikes of food and energy prices, climate change and other risks, it is essential that CAREC members

develop a *Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery*, which will help CAREC members to shape national policy and redefine regional approaches for economic recovery through enhanced policy coordination. In response to the food security risks faced by members in the region, it was suggested that CAREC members formulate a *Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region*, with an aim to help members make agriculture more productive, resilient and environmental sustainable through fostering agricultural modernization and strengthening regional cooperation. Considering that the climate change poses severe long-term challenges to CAREC members, we have made climate change and energy transition a priority in our agenda. The CAREC members will consider and endorse the proposed concept of *CAREC Green Energy Alliance* this year, which aims to establish a digital platform as a financing vehicle for projects of energy efficiency and renewable energy. We will also submit to Ministers for notation of a *Scoping Study report on Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change*, which will provide systematic and strategic approach to the climate change in the region. All these deliverables presented before us today are structured around the proposed theme of this year's Ministerial conference, that is "*Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery*", which, if endorsed, I believe will ensure the success of Ministerial Conference and provide new impetus to future CAREC cooperation.

Considering that today's meeting is our last before the Ministerial Conference, we hope we can reach a consensus in principle on draft deliverables, which will be helpful for the Secretariat to finalize the documents in time before submitting to Ministerial conference for endorsement.

To conclude, I hope that we can have fruitful discussion today and make good preparation for the Ministerial Conference in November! Thank you.