

VIRTUAL CONSULTATION  
MEETING  
ON CAREC GENDER STRATEGY



ОНЛАЙН КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ  
СОВЕЩАНИЕ ПО ГЕНДЕРНОЙ  
СТРАТЕГИИ ЦАРЭС ДО 2030 Г.



# CAREC Gender Strategy 2030

Draft for consultations

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# CAREC Gender Strategy 2030

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3. Approach and framework
4. Mainstreaming gender in CAREC operations: Key entry points
5. Institutional arrangements
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## 1. Introduction

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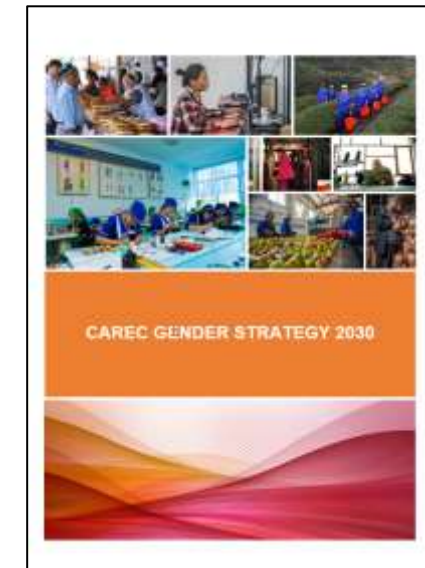
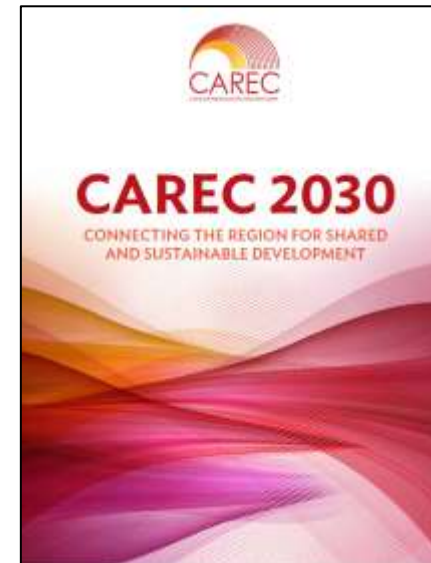
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- Gender mainstreaming is a cross-cutting theme under CAREC 2030 strategy.
- CAREC Gender Strategy 2030 will complement CAREC 2030, and national efforts and strategies in gender mainstreaming.
- It draws on findings and insights from CAREC Gender Assessment: analysis of 107 projects with a gender lens.







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• **Purpose of CAREC Gender Strategy:**

To increase the **potential and capacity of women** in the participating countries to **benefit equally** from CAREC investments and interventions.

To enable **equal access to any opportunities** created through the regional cooperation mechanism.





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- **Rational of CAREC Gender Strategy:**

a. CAREC countries have several **common challenges** and bottlenecks to improving the quality of lives of women.

b. CAREC countries can **learn from each other** on strengthening their national approaches on gender mainstreaming.

c. **Opportunities have been missed** to mainstream gender effectively across regional projects supported under CAREC.

d. Regional support under CAREC can **add value to national efforts** and programs for gender.

e. **All CAREC countries have committed** to SDGs and to key international gender equality agreements.

f. **CAREC development partners are committed** to advancing gender equality and empowering women.



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 **Vision**

*“Inclusion, Empowerment and Resilience for all”*

 **Mission**

 *Equality and empowerment of women and girls in all CAREC operations for inclusive, shared and sustainable development* 

 **Objectives**

1. Promote women’s **access to economic opportunities.**
2. Contribute to women’s **social empowerment.**
3. Support women’s **regional networks and policy reform** for women’s empowerment.
4. Enhance women’s **access to information and communication technology.**



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- Key gender issues and potential strategic directions and entry points.
- CAREC Gender Strategy will be implemented through CAREC specific sectors strategies and plans.
- Due to the socio-economic and cultural diversity of CAREC countries, entry points will be adapted and refined for each country context.



**Economic and  
Financial Stability  
Cluster**



**Trade, Tourism, and  
Economic Corridors  
Cluster**



**Infrastructure and  
Economic Connectivity  
Cluster**



**Agriculture and Water  
Cluster**



**Human Development  
Cluster**



**Gender equality**



**ICT integration**



**Climate change**



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## Economic and Financial Stability Cluster

### Key issues:

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- Limited opportunities for women to benefit from regional economic opportunities.
- Discrimination in recruitment and working practices.
- Limited access to credit, services and information for women entrepreneurs.

### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

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- Promote equal regional economic opportunities and create standards that promote decent work for all.
- Create enabling environment for female entrepreneurs to take advantage of regional economic opportunities.
- Promote regional and cross-country policy dialogue and knowledge sharing to enable stakeholders to learn from each other's experiences.
- Support establishment of networks for business-women's associations.
- Seek to work with and support banking and private sectors to promote financial inclusion of women.





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## Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors Cluster

### Trade. Key issues:

- Cross- border formal and informal; and small-scale trading activities are a major source of income for women.
- Often limited access to information on market rules by female traders, increasing potential risks to harassment and/or extortion.

### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

- Align with CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda.
- Support revision of national and regional trade policies to include gender-responsive measures.
- Facilitate consultations with female traders and business owners across borders.
- Promote inclusion of women in regional value chains.
- Enhance regional information and knowledge sharing; and training to trade officials.



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## Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors Cluster

### Tourism. Key issues:

- Tourism offers many potential opportunities for women, including decent work, entrepreneurship, training and leadership and decision-making roles.
- Open-visa regimes trend among CAREC countries.
- Although CAREC countries have enacted legislation against human trafficking and to protect victims, more concerted efforts are still needed to minimize these forms of gender discrimination.

### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

- Align with CAREC Tourism Strategy 2030.
- Promote women's access to jobs and information in the regional tourism sector.
- Support the creation of a regional inter-connected tourism market among CAREC countries that will generate new opportunities for women, traditionally active in this sector.
- Support initiatives to involve women and men in local communities, including in bordering areas.
- Provide capacity building on gender-sensitive policies for regional tourism operators and private sector businesses.



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## Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors Cluster

### Economic Corridors. Key issues:

- Economic Corridors in the CAREC regions are an effective tool to create business development opportunities, employment, and entrepreneurship, promoting growth through deepened regional cooperation and integration.

### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

- Support the promotion of regional economic corridors, such as:
  - Almaty-Bishkek (ABEC) Economic Corridor.
  - Trilateral Economic Corridor between Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
- Such initiatives will strengthen regional connectivity and create income-generating activities for women in:
  - cross-border trade and wholesale markets,
  - tourism and related services,
  - regional value chain development, and
  - integrated urban planning.



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## Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity Cluster

### Transport. Key issues:

- Gender differences in transport usage and trip patterns.
- Regional transport routes are often not accessible and safe for women.
- Limited use of public transport by women due to cost, lack of provision and safety issues.

### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

- Align with CAREC Transport Strategy 2030.
- Ensure regional transport services are affordable, convenient, accessible and safe for women and children.
- Support collection of regional transport-related sex disaggregated data.
- Raise awareness on protecting women through trainings, knowledge sharing and networking.
- Support development of gender-inclusive regional policies and guidelines.





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## Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity Cluster

### Energy. Key issues:

- Women generally manage energy use of household and are therefore affected by the lack of clean, modern and efficient energy sources.
- “Energy poverty” impacts women’s time.
- Energy sector is a useful source of employment for women.

### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

- Align with CAREC Energy Strategy 2030, which foresees the establishment of a regional women’s energy program to improve their skills, and a regional women’s network.
- Strengthen and inform regional energy policies focused on fostering equal opportunities and on reducing domestic energy costs.
- Support initiatives to create women’s employment in the growing green energy market at the regional level.
- Enable regional partnerships between energy suppliers, universities and TVET institutions to create more income-earning opportunities for women and men.



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## Agriculture and Water Cluster

### Key issues:

- Women predominantly work in agriculture in many CAREC countries, which is often poorly paid or unpaid.
- Limited access to productive resources and higher-value markets by female farmers.
- Women are often responsible for water management in household.
- Limited female representation in water user associations (WUAs).

### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

- Support ongoing CAREC initiatives, such as:
  - training of women in sanitary and phytosanitary safeguards and standards,
  - establishment of a regional food safety network, and
  - participation of women in regional wholesale markets.
- Promote regional and country-level approaches for equitable access of women and men to productive resources.
- Provide capacity building for women farmers on new agricultural practices and technologies, which will contribute to create regional agricultural value chains.
- Facilitate and increase women's participation and representation in regional mechanisms for water management .



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### Human Development Cluster

#### Education. Key issues:

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- Majority of CAREC countries have achieved gender parity or near parity in primary and secondary education.
- Women lag behind in STEM subjects due to gender norms and perceptions.
- Limited representation in higher-level decision-making posts.

#### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

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- Support projects at regional level to provide opportunities for skills development with women by partnering with national and regional TVET providers.
- Support student and faculty exchanges for women and men in CAREC countries.
- Promote regional efforts to increase women's representation in management of educational institutions.



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## Human Development Cluster

### Health. Key issues:

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- Steady improvement in health indicators, but still inadequate access to health services, particularly for women and children, which is further undermined by COVID-19.

### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

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- Support development of gender-inclusive regional health strategy to protect women, men and children from the spread of infectious diseases.
- Improve access to new technologies and digital solutions, such as tele-health and e-health services.
- Promote access of women and men to cross-border health services for seeking specialized medical care.





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## Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)

Cross-cutting to all clusters

### Key issues:

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- Digital gap between men and women, on phone ownership and internet usage.
- Limited participation by women in economic activity that relies on ICTs.

### The CAREC Gender Strategy will:

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- Provide capacity building in ICT for women and girls, including in schools and higher education institutions.
- Seek engagement with private sector ICT companies to facilitate provision access.
- Promote creation of regional knowledge networks to share good gender-sensitive practices.



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### CAREC Strategy 2030



CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, ICT = information and communication technology.  
Source: CAREC Secretariat.

### CAREC Gender Strategy 2030





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### 1 Regional Gender Expert Group (RGEG)

- **Coordinated by CAREC Secretariat.**
- Comprised of **representatives from 11 CAREC countries** (Women's or other ministries, national and international women's Civil Society Organizations and NGOs) and **development partners.**
- Close **collaboration with CAREC sector focals and committees.**
- RGEG will convene **once a year.**

### 2 Enhanced collaboration between CAREC stakeholders

- **CAREC member countries:** ensure ownership through NFPs, RCCs and Advisors to NFPs.
- **Development partners:** support and expertise will be sought, in addition to gender experts within ADB.
- **CAREC Institute:** mainstreaming gender in CI research will be sought, on policy dialogue, knowledge sharing, and development of gender specific products.

### 3 Monitoring and evaluation mechanism

- **CAREC Gender Strategy 2030 Results Framework** to assess progress in implementation of the strategy.

# VIRTUAL CONSULTATION MEETING ON CAREC GENDER STRATEGY



# ОНЛАЙН КОНСУЛЬТАТИВНОЕ СОВЕЩАНИЕ ПО ГЕНДЕРНОЙ СТРАТЕГИИ ЦАРЭС ДО 2030 Г.

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## 6. Results framework

- To monitor progress on CAREC Gender Strategy 2030.
- The CAREC Secretariat will closely work with the sector committees, working groups and proposed RGEG to feed sector strategies into this mechanism and develop concrete cluster and sector-specific gender indicators.
- Every 3 years, the CAREC Secretariat will prepare a consolidated progress report by taking stock of progress on the gender results framework.

Impact	Inclusion, empowerment and resilience for all in the CAREC region			
↑ Outcomes	<b>1. Women's access to economic opportunities promoted</b> Barriers to labor force participation removed and enabling environment for female entrepreneurship created, occupational stereotypes dismantled, number of management and leadership positions occupied by women in CAREC sectors increased and gender wage gaps closed in CAREC sectors.	<b>2. Social empowerment of women increased</b> Gender gaps narrowed, resulting in women's economic and political empowerment, greater access to productive resources and opportunities and improved quality of life for women in CAREC countries.	<b>3. Women's regional networks and policy reform supported for women's empowerment</b> Gender-responsive policy reforms supported. Enabling environment for fostering and establishing women's regional networks created.	<b>4. Women's access to ICT increased</b> Women and girls' access to ICT and ICT literacy improved in CAREC countries.
↑ Outputs	<b>A. Economic and financial stability</b>			
	Targets for female employees and for training of women in technical areas included in CAREC projects. Female entrepreneurs supported through measures that include preferential interest rates and business training. Banking regulations to improve financial inclusion for women and other marginalized groups, supported by regional financial models that promote female entrepreneurship.	CAREC projects design based on information from consultations with women and men, and implementation regularly reviewed to ensure it continues to meet the specific needs of women and men. Training in gender sensitivity in place for all CAREC employers, employees and funders.	Regional and cross-country policy dialogue and research to promote policy reform that removes structural impediments to women's participation in economic activities, enhanced.	Female entrepreneurs' access to appropriate ICT enhanced. Training in software and platforms for technical support, online sales and business-focused information provided. Initiatives introduced to increase access to affordable digital financial services for female entrepreneurs.
	<b>B. Trade, tourism and Economic Corridors</b>			
	Preferential conditions introduced for female traders, including the introduction of subsidies for female-	Trade, tourism and economic policies informed by consultations with female traders.	National and regional trade policies revised to include gender-responsive	Expand women's access to digital technologies enabling

Extract of CAREC Gender Strategy Results Framework that sets layout.





## Open discussion

Moderator: Ms. Alice Rosero, Gender Specialist, CWRD, ADB.

- (i)** Besides the global and regional gender issues identified in the strategy, are there some other important global, regional, and national developments that should be reflected?
- (ii)** Is the CAREC Gender Strategy 2030, including its vision, mission and objectives statements, and strategic entry points for each of the five CAREC operational clusters, aligned with national gender priorities and strategies? Are there any other strategic areas that should be included or dropped?
- (iii)** Do the proposed institutional arrangements provide an effective and flexible mechanism to ensure coordination between CAREC countries and rest of stakeholders to mainstream gender in their operations? Are there any other elements that should be included?
- (iv)** Are the proposed outputs in the results framework (section VI) adequate for monitoring and evaluating the implementation progress of the gender strategy 2030?



# VIRTUAL CONSULTATION MEETING ON CAREC GENDER STRATEGY 28, 30 September and 1 October 2020

