



## Knowledge Sharing Program on Promoting Regional Cooperation and Integration for Economic Corridor Development in the CAREC Region

15-19 May 2023, Batumi, Georgia

### Objectives:

As an important member of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program, Georgia has been actively promoting regional cooperation and integration (RCI) to capitalize on its strategic location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia and reap economic benefits through deepening trade integration with neighboring countries and beyond. The knowledge sharing program aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge between Georgia and selected other CAREC member countries (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan) in RCI and economic corridor development (ECD).

### Participants

Transport, customs, trade, tourism and other ECD-related government officials in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan at central, oblast and city levels.

**Facilitators:** Mr. Bahodir Ganiev, Economic Corridor Development Specialist (ADB Consultant)  
Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB

Time	Activity
<b>15 May 2023 (Monday)</b>	
	Arrival in Batumi
18:30-20:00	Welcome reception (cocktails): welcoming and networking among participants
<b>Day 1: 16 May 2023 (Tuesday)</b>	
08:30-09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00-09:30	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Samson Uridia, Head, International Relations Department, Revenue Service, Georgia, CAREC Trade Facilitation Focal</li> <li>Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, Central and West Asia Department, ADB (via video recording)</li> <li>Mr. George Luarsabishvili, Senior Economics Officer, Georgia Resident Mission</li> </ul>
09:30-17:30	<b>Georgia's Experience in Promoting RCI in Selected Thematic Focus Areas for Economic Corridor Development</b> <p><i>This one-day session will present an overview and concept of ECD and road map for economic corridor development in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. It will be followed by presentations on Georgia's experience in promoting cross-border RCI in trade facilitation, tourism development, and other related areas, and open discussions among all the participants.</i></p>

Time	Activity
	<b>Moderators:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Bahodir Ganiev, Economic Corridor Development Specialist (ADB Consultant)</li> <li>• Ms. Xinglan Hu, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB</li> </ul>
9:30-10:45	<b>Presentation 1: Concept of Economic Corridor and Road Map for Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor Development (20 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Bahodir Ganiev, Economic Corridor Development Specialist (ADB Consultant)</li> </ul> <b>Discussant:</b> Mr. George Luarsabishvili, Senior Economic Officer, Georgia Resident Mission (15 mins)  Open Discussion (40 mins)
10:45-11:15	<b>Group Photo and Coffee Break (30 mins)</b>
11:15-12:30	<b>Presentation 2: Georgia's Experience in Domestic and International Cooperation of Border Agencies for Facilitation of International Trade and Transport (25 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Samson Uridia, Head, International Relations Department, Revenue Service, Georgia, CAREC Trade Facilitation Focal</li> </ul> <b>Open Discussion (50 mins)</b>
12:30-14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
14:00-15:05	<b>Presentation 3: Transport Operators' Perspectives on International Trade and Transport Facilitation in Georgia (25 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Nino Chkheidze, Secretary General, Georgian International Road Carriers Association</li> </ul> <b>Open Discussion (40 mins)</b>
15:05-15:25	<b>Coffee Break (20 mins)</b>
15:25-16:30	<b>Presentation 4: Georgia's Experience in Strengthening Food Safety Systems in Support of Food Exports (25 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Zurab Zurashvili, Head, International Relations Department, National Food Agency)</li> </ul> <b>Open Discussion (40 mins)</b>
16:30-17:00	<b>Wrap-up (30 mins)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Concluding Remarks from Delegation of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan</b></li> </ul>
<b>Day 2: 17 May 2023 (Wednesday)</b>	

Time	Activity
10:00 (departure from hotel)	<b>Site visits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Georgia-Türkiye Border Crossing Point (Sarp-Sarpi BCP) in Batumi (visit both sides of the BCP)</li> <li>• Batumi Customs Clearance Zone</li> </ul>
<b>Day 3: 18 May 2023 (Thursday)</b>	
08:30 (departure from hotel)	<b>Site visits (continued)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit to the Ltd Kerki (dry fruit processing company) at Village Dzentsmani, Keda Municipality, Adjara, showcasing the whole process of operations for export</li> <li>• Lunch at local ethnos restaurant “Adjara Wine House”, joined by representative and guide from Adjara Tourism Department with presentation on Adjara tourism program and management</li> <li>• Visit to the Makhuntseti Waterfall and Gonio Fortress in Adjara</li> </ul>
<b>Day 4: 19 May 2023 (Friday)</b>	
8:30-9:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00-12:30	<b>Discussion on lessons learned from Georgian experience on RCI, and possible next steps for economic corridor development in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderator: Mr. Bahodir Ganiev, Economic Corridor Development Specialist (ADB Consultant)</li> </ul>
12:30-14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
Afternoon	<b>Free Time/Departure</b>