

# Session 1: Introduction of the Agenda and Updates on the Status of Implementation of the CATS/ICE Development Pilot Phase

**ZULFIA KARIMOVA**

Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Central and West Asia Department,  
Asia Development Bank

12-13 March 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan

# 5th Technical Working Group Meeting on CATS/ICE

## MEETING AGENDA

- 9 Sessions
- Breakout session: Working group meetings i) Information and Communication and Technology(ICT) and (ii) Customs Control Facilitation in the afternoon of day 1, 12 March

## MEETING OBJECTIVES

- Discuss the outcomes of the CATS/ICE prototype system testing undertaken in 2024
- Review key CATS/ICE system updates undertaken since September 2024
- Review the CATS/ICE progress achieved in 2024
- Elaborate the next steps in the CATS/ICE pilot phase implementation



# Major Activities Held in 2024



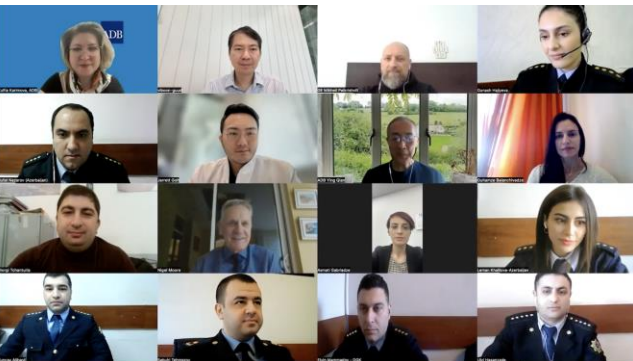
**3rd Technical Working Group Meeting** (5-6 February; Tbilisi, Georgia)



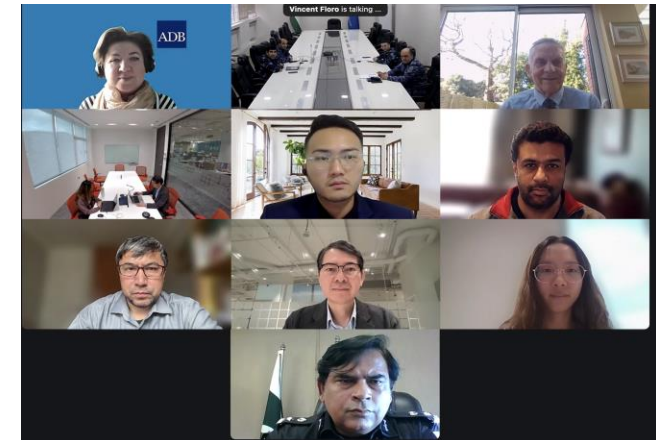
**23<sup>rd</sup> CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee Meeting** (15-16 August; Astana, Kazakhstan) - *"The CCC welcomed the progress made in implementing the testing phase of the prototype. The participating countries expressed their support for continuing the testing phase of the system concepts and design to streamline regional customs transit procedures and potentially increase intra-regional trade."*



**4<sup>th</sup> Technical Working Group Meeting** (15-16 April; Tashkent, Uzbekistan)



**CATS/ICE Training for 'Test' Phase**  
(29 February- March 1; Virtual via Zoom)



**CATS/ICE Parallel Testing**  
(4-20 September 2024; Virtual via Zoom)



**5th Technical Working Group on CATS/ICE Pilot Phase Implementation**  
12-13 March 2025, Baku, Azerbaijan

# Status Updates (i)

## Turkmenistan's Participation

- Turkmenistan withdrew observer status during pilot phase implementation of CATS and unable to participate in the parallel testing held in September 2024.

## CATS/ICE System Testing

- ADB and Participating Countries completed parallel testing of the CATS system on 4-20 September 2024 and a virtual system test on 24-26 February 2025
- ADB prepared a report on the testing and will be circulated to countries for review.

## CATS/ICE Functionality and Design

- ADB consolidated recommendations and comments during system tests and developed the version 2 of the Prototype System.
- ADB and Participating Countries completed a virtual Version 2 Prototype Training conducted on 17 February 2025

# Status Updates (ii)

## Legal Agreement to Support the Implementation of CATS/ICE

- ADB completed a legal assessment to study legal and regulatory challenges to implement CATS/ICE

## Memorandum of Understanding Between Customs and Trade Operators on the Participation in the CATS

- ADB prepared a draft MOU between Customs and Trade Operators on their possible participation in CATS. ADB to discuss more about the draft in Session 08

## Presentation to Other CAREC members

- ADB prepared system demonstration to Pakistan and Tajikistan on 4 February 2024.

# New ADB Technical Assistance to Support CATS/ICE Implementation

**Project Name:** **Implementing the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 (Phase 2)**

**Nature of Activity:** Capacity Development, Policy Advice, Research and Development

**Outputs:**

1. Knowledge to expand, digitalize, and promote the greening of trade provided
2. Projects that expand, digitalize, and promote the greening of trade supported
3. Capacities of trade institutions for policy formulation, coordination, and implementation reinforced

**Under Output 2:**

1. Implement subregion-wide **CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Customs Exchange (CATS/ICE)** and pilot expansion to remaining member countries
2. Regional mapping of CAREC BCPs to assess applicability of green and smart border facilities based on the Border Efficiency for Sustainable Trade (BEST) and Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS) projects



**Thank you.**

**Ms. Zulfia Khamitovna Karimova**  
Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist  
Asian Development Bank