



# CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 and Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2023–2025: Progress of Implementation and Next Steps

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# Outline

## CAREC Trade at a Glance, Performance, and Outlook

## CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 and Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP)

- Country Achievements and RSAP Interventions
- Specific Interventions in Accelerating Digital Trade
- Communications: Knowledge Products and Quarterly Newsletter

## Monitoring Indicators and TA Support

- CITA 2030 Results Indicators
- Existing CAREC Trade TA support



# CAREC Trade at a Glance



**CAREC goods exports** reached \$3652 billion in 2021; excluding the PRC, they were \$136 billion. **CAREC goods imports** reached \$2852 billion; excluding the PRC they were \$167 billion.



Petroleum oils were the **top export** of CAREC excluding the PRC, valued at \$34 billion. This is also the world's top export.



**Intra-regional CAREC trade** was \$104 billion; excluding the PRC, it was \$13.5 billion.



**CAREC services exports** reached \$299 billion in 2020; excluding the PRC, they were \$18 billion. **CAREC services imports** were \$411 billion; excluding the PRC they reached \$30 billion.



In 2021, **foreign direct investment outflows** from CAREC totaled \$37 billion; excluding the PRC, it was \$1.7 billion. **Foreign direct investment inflows** into CAREC were \$21 billion; excluding the PRC, it was \$7 billion.



**Intra-CAREC investment flows** totaled \$1.1 billion in 2021; excluding the PRC it was \$163 million



**Cumulative foreign direct investment outflows** from CAREC from 2001 to 2021 totaled \$1012 billion; excluding the PRC, it was \$70 billion. **Cumulative inflows** into CAREC were \$2529 billion; excluding the PRC it was \$518 billion.



**Cumulative intra-CAREC investment inflows** from 2001 to 2021 reached \$49 billion; excluding the PRC it was about \$5.6 billion.

Source: CAREC Trade Information Portal (<https://trade.carecprogram.org/>)

# CAREC Trade Performance and Outlook

Group / Year	Merchandise exports (% growth)					Merchandise imports (% growth)				
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Developing Asia	-2.4	-0.7	30.5	8.2	8.6	-3.6	-6.4	35.7	10.1	10.4
CAREC-10	1.1	-12.0	22.8	29.6	11.0	3.2	-12.5	18.8	24.6	10.4

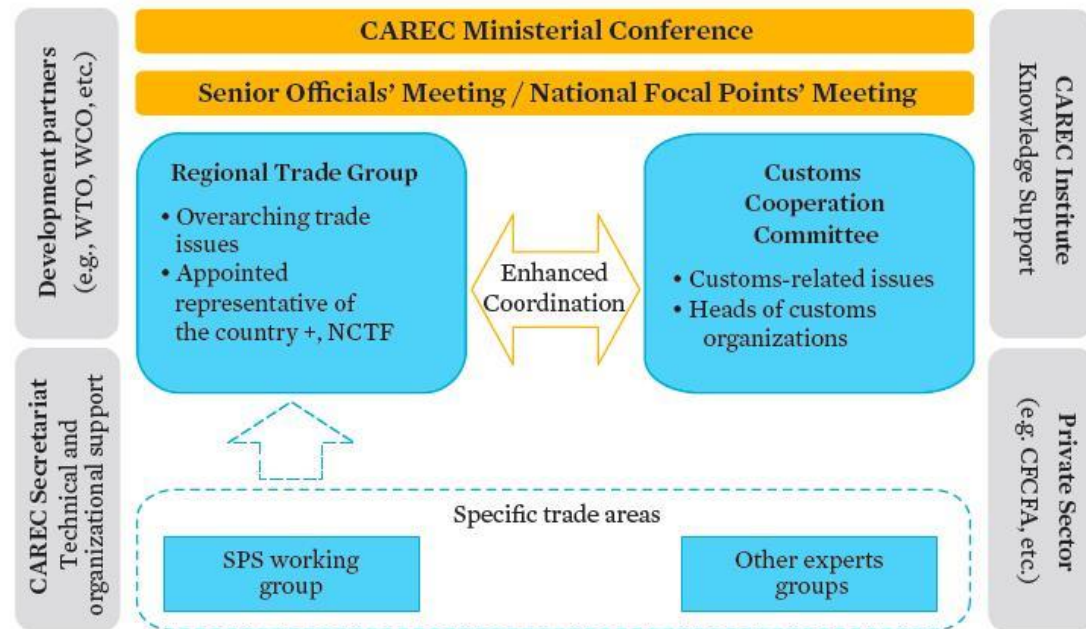
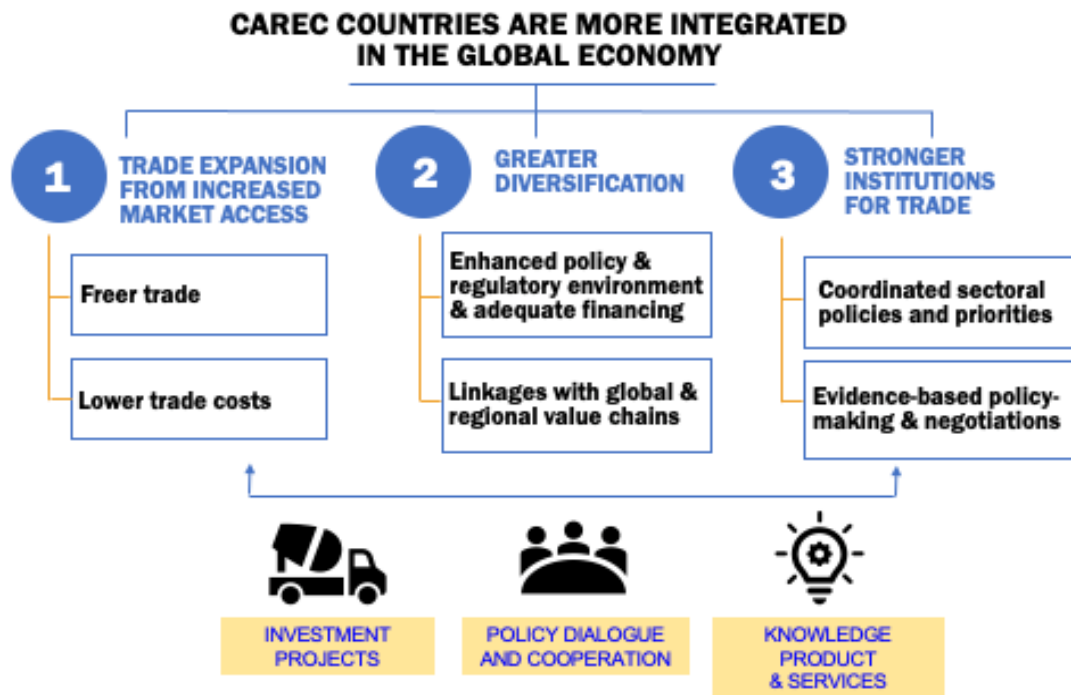
Source: ADB, Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2023 (April 2023). 2023 forecasts are from ADO 2022.

*"Trade continues to be a force for resilience in the global economy, but it will remain under pressure from external factors in 2023. This makes it even more important for governments to avoid trade fragmentation and refrain from introducing obstacles to trade." —WTO*





# CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 and Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP)



CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, CFCFA = CAREC Federation of Carrier and Forwarder Associations, NCTF = national committee on trade facilitation, SPS = sanitary and phytosanitary, WCO = World Customs Organization, WTO = World Trade Organization.



# Pillar 1: Trade expansion from increased market access



## Country achievements

*sustained momentum in keeping trade open, participating in international agreements, adopting global standards, & accelerating digital trade*

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: 100% implementation rate for PRC; KAZ and GEO; 85% for rest of CAREC

WTO accession: accelerated talks for AZE and UZB; TKM became acceding member in 2022, finalizing negotiating team and institutional structure

5 members (AZE, PRC, MON, TAJ, TKM) joined UN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia-Pacific

## CITA RSAP interventions

ADB-WTO Roundtable on TKM's Accession to WTO (May 2023); subregional dialogue (KAZ, Sep 2023)

IPPC's ePhyto solutions (UZB and PRC, GEO, MON and PAK expressing interest). ePhyto conference (UZB, Sep 2023)

AZE on pest-free areas, UZB & PAK on phytosanitary capacity and reforms, MON on integrating SPS with customs, TAJ dialogue on veterinary services

National single window initiatives in AZE, KGZ, MON, PAK and TAJ (2021–2023); regional webinar and workshops

## Pillar 2: Greater diversification

### Country achievements

Joint Coordinating Council for cross-border zone for PRC and MON

MON's hosting the World Export Development Forum 2023

3 members (AZE, PRC, and MON) as contracting parties to UN Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts

AZE high-level meeting on Simplified Transit Procedures in Trans-Caspian Middle Corridor (Mar 2023)

### CITA RSAP interventions

Ongoing investments for PRC and MON to develop Erenhot and Zamyn-Uud free zones

Forum on Developing Sustainable Economic Zones and Roundtable on Supply Chain Connectivity and Resilient Border Operations (MON, Sep 2022)

PRC: forum on digital commerce for agriculture development (Sep 2022)

MON: capacity building on statistics on trade in services and e-commerce (Nov 2022)

Subregional study tour for 5 CA governments and private sector representatives (May 2023)





# Pillar 3: Stronger institutions for trade

## Focus areas

Capacity to negotiate FTAs and implement trade agreements

Promoting transparency through national trade portals

Knowledge-sharing and visibility

Coordination and engagement

Evidence-based policy research

## CITA RSAP interventions

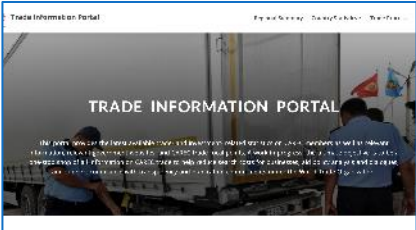
Feasibility of CAREC-wide FTA (Aug 2022) and series of FTA workshops (2022-2023)

Regular update of the CAREC Trade Information Portal and link with national sites

Launch of CAREC Trade Insights and News (quarterly newsletter); various blogs and features

CAREC at 10th Asia Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum (ADB-ESCAP) (SIN, Sep 2022)

Progress in Trade Facilitation: A 10-Year Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) Perspective





# Accelerating Digital Trade



**Enabling investments in data and ICT infrastructure**

MON: development of prototype for e-Certificate of Origin using blockchain and digital ledger technology  
GEO: digitalization of import procedure using artificial intelligence or robotic process automation



**Mutual trust through harmonization and regional cooperation**

Supporting adoption of UN Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (PRC and Georgia, 2022–2023)  
E-commerce law reform to align with best practices (AZE, KGZ & MON (2022–2023))



**Knowledge cooperation platform**

CAREC Digital Trade Forum  
CAREC-GMS Inter-subregional dialogue (2023)  
Opportunities for public-private collaboration (International Chamber of Commerce, Alibaba, etc)

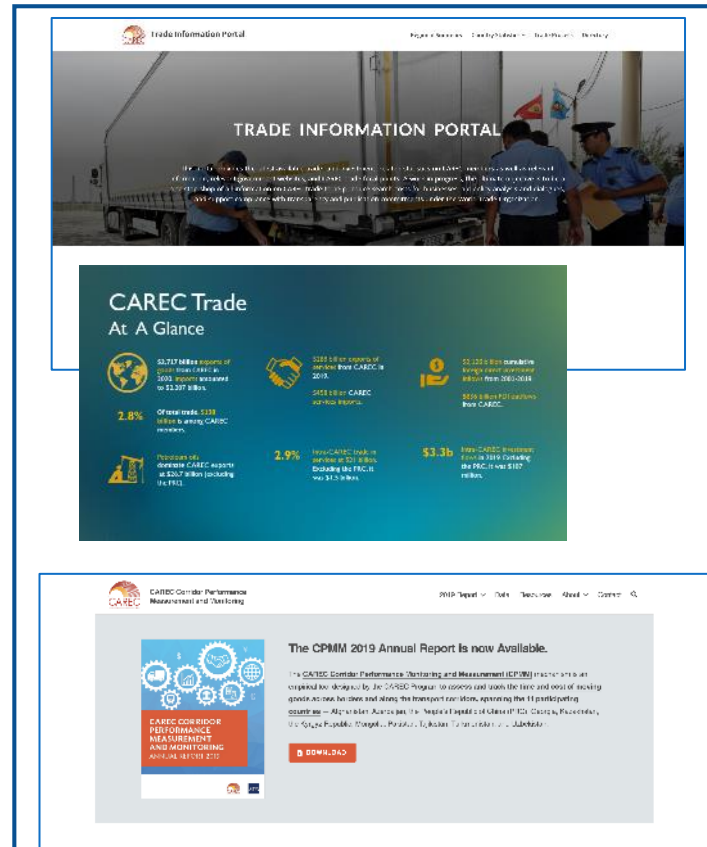


# Knowledge Products

## Key Trade Publications



## CAREC Trade Information Portal and CPMM database



## Knowledge-Sharing Modules on CAREC Trade



CAREC Regional Trade Group (RTG) – Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) Joint Meeting  
12 June 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia



Issue no. 5 | January-March 2023

### INSIGHTS

**National Workshop on Potential CAREC-wide FTA for Georgia**  
30 January 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia

*"Georgia welcomes the potential CAREC-wide FTA perspectives and ready to have in-depth discussions with other CAREC members to explore possibility of regional FTA."*

**Gennadi Arveladze**  
Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, and CAREC National Focal Point



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**Stakeholders' Consultation on Azerbaijan's National Single Window**  
16 March 2023, Baku, Azerbaijan

*"Political will and coordination with other agencies are key factors to integrate existing digital initiatives into a single window portal."*

**Samed Garalov**  
Director of Head Department on Customs Control and Trade Facilitation, State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan



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**3rd Meeting of the CAREC Regional Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Strategic Directions Planning and TA 9500 Closing Workshop**  
23-25 January 2023, Tbilisi, Georgia

*"The progress of CAREC countries in the global agricultural value chain will have a positive impact on economic and financial stability, trade, and the development of economic corridors, and cross-cutting clusters of the CAREC 2030 Strategy."*

**Ekaterine Guntadze**  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance of Georgia



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**National Workshop on Potential CAREC-wide Free Trade Agreement**  
20 March 2023, Islamabad, Pakistan

*"FTAs are core parts of Pakistan's trade strategy. Broadening of trade agreements deepen the existing partnerships and initiatives such as Digital and Green Economy."*

**Kasim Niaz**  
Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Government of Pakistan



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**Training on International Trade in Services and Digital Economy Statistics for Mongolia**  
20-23 March 2023, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

*"Trade in services has become the biggest contributor to GDP, growing fast and dynamically. Developing statistics is critical for informed policy-making. Knowledge-sharing can help us build necessary platform for development."*

**Gantumur Tuvshindorj**  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Development of Mongolia



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**Training on International Trade in Services and Digital Economy Statistics for Mongolia**  
20-23 March 2023, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

*"Reliable statistics are critical for trade negotiations and formulating a services export strategy. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination is a must."*

**Ariunaa Adiya**  
Assistant, Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



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# Quarterly Newsletter



- Insights from CAREC members and experts
- Upcoming activities
- Knowledge products and tools
- Partnership features
- Announcements and useful links





# CITA 2030 Results Indicators

Trade Outcomes and Outputs	Indicator	2017 baseline	2019 progress/ <sup>1</sup>	2020 progress/ <sup>1</sup>	2021 progress/ <sup>1</sup>	2023 target/ <sup>2</sup>
<b>Outcome</b> CAREC countries are more integrated into the global economy	Trade in fuels and non-fuels within CAREC and with rest of the world as % of GDP	Fuels:				
		Within CAREC: 0.45	0.67	0.47	0.67	0.84
		With rest of world: 10.22	12.30	8.13	9.69	14.87
		Non-fuels:				
		Within CAREC: 1.55	2.36	2.05	2.46	4.17
		With rest of world: 23.64	27.40	25.14	32.81	31.52
<b>Output 1</b> Greater diversification in products and sectors achieved	Trade in services as % of GDP	9.96	10.33	7.67	7.78	13.72
	Share of top 5 exports in total exports	61.66	64.85	60.40	54.71	54.04
<b>Output 2</b> Capacity of institutions for trade strengthened	% of respondents report improved knowledge for trade	93.0 (2018)	90.5/ <sup>3</sup>	90.5/ <sup>3</sup>	94.0	95.0

12 June 2020, Tbilisi, Georgia

# ADB's Regional Technical Assistance on CAREC Trade

## KSTA 9712: Implementing the Integrated Trade Agenda in the CAREC Program

\$2.4 million (RCIF \$1.6 million; PRCF \$0.8 million)

Approval: 15 Feb 2019

Completion: 31 Jan 2024

## KSTA 9824: Better Customs for Better Client Services in CAREC Countries

\$1.45 million (RCIF \$0.25 million; PRCF \$0.5 million; UK-ARTCF \$0.7 million)

Approval: 14 Oct 2019

Completion: 30 Sep 2024

## KSTA 9500: Modernizing Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to Facilitate Trade

\$1.95 million (RCIF \$0.75 million; PRCF \$0.8 million; TASF \$0.4 million)

Approval: 13 Feb 2018

Completion: 30 Jan 2023

## KSTA 6558: Strengthening Knowledge and Capacities for the Design and Implementation of Free Trade Agreements Involving CAREC Countries

\$1.2 million (UK-ARTCF \$0.7 million; PRCF \$0.5 million)

Approval: 31 Aug 2020

Completion: 31 Aug 2025

## KSTA 9832: Partnership with the Private Sector for Sustainable Trade Facilitation Results in the CAREC Program

\$1.55 million (RCIF)

Approval: 24 Oct 2019

Completion: 31 Dec 2024

## For consideration

RTG and CCC to note the overall progress and endorse the CAREC Trade Sector Report

RTG and CCC to endorse the CITA Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2023–2025

RTG to provide guidance on scope of new KSTA for CAREC trade, identifying priorities, deepening interventions, and considering limited TA resources

RTG to review and provide feedback on CITA results framework

