

# CAREC Trade & Investment Facilitation Partnership (CARTIF)

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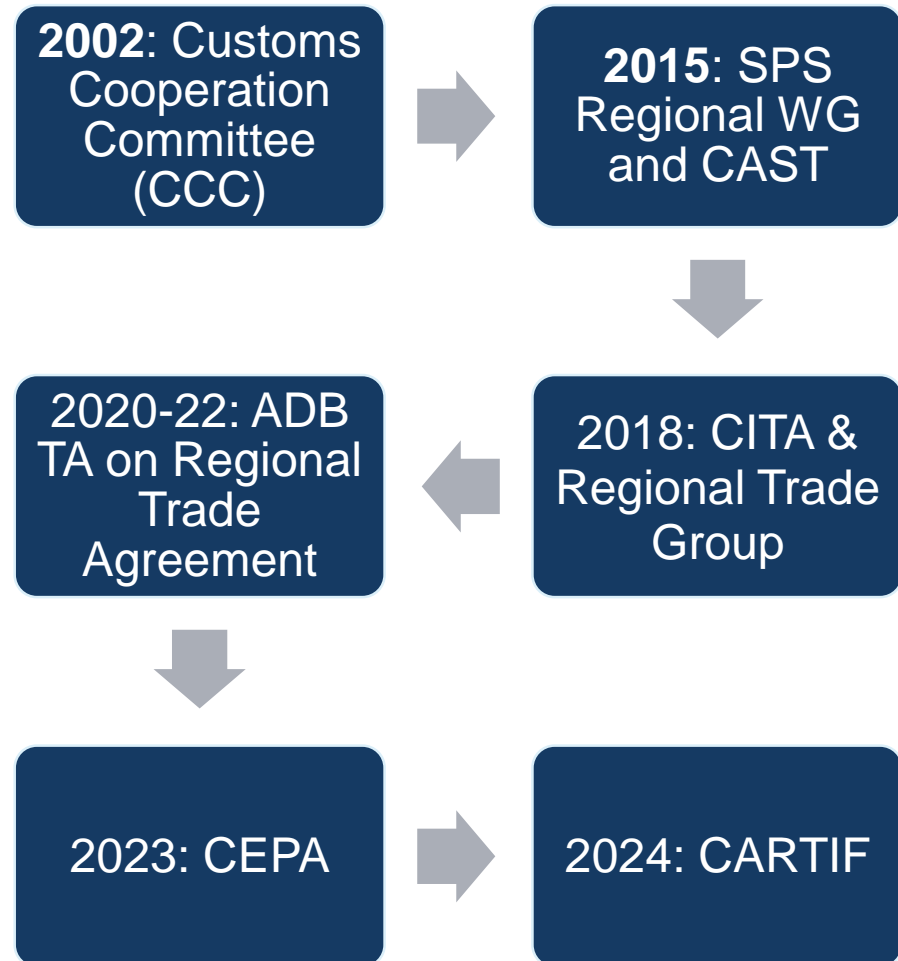
**Asian Development Bank**



## Background and Rationale

CAREC countries have potential to speed up economic development through regional trade and investment facilitation by addressing the main challenges, including poor market access and limited economic diversification.

CAREC has been pursuing trade facilitation agenda since its establishment in 2001



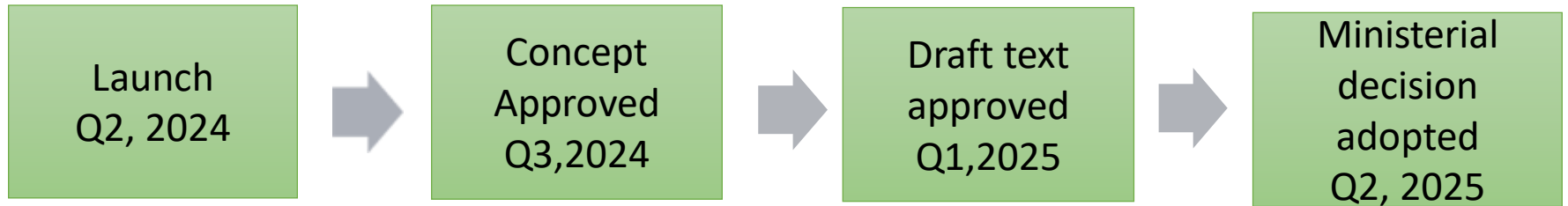
# CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation [CARTIF]

- *Regional partnership* amongst CAREC countries on Trade & Investment Facilitation aligned with CITA 2030 objectives and ADB TA outcomes;
- Aims at creating a solid framework for moving the *CAREC regional trade agenda to the new level*, supporting further economic diversification through the facilitation of green cross-border trade and investments.
- Regional legal framework based on *progressive, new generation trade agreements and investment facilitation* provisions.
- Follows principles and rules negotiated under WTO and other comparative regional trade agreements, including WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, etc. It's *flexibly adapted to the CAREC trade and investment priorities* and emerging needs.
- *Soft agreement* aimed at clarifying the relationship between the parties and their respective roles in securing mutually beneficial results open for all CAREC countries. It may start with 2+ approach with interested CAREC countries to join when deemed appropriate.

# ADB's Approach, Methodology, Outputs

- Comprehensive, well-organized and structured approach to project implementation spanning in 3 phases;
- Conceptualizing and developing supporting documents with thematic international expertise aligned with countries' priorities;
- Conducting CAREC consultations (through MC, SOM and RTG/CCC consultations);
- Awareness raising and communication with decision makers and public stakeholders;
- Methodology - desk research and country/regional virtual and physical workshops for senior and subject-matter expert consultations; presenting at CAREC Ministerial Conference for decision-making;
- Expected Outputs by 2025:
  - CARTIF concept agreed and finalized;
  - CARTIF draft text and proposed institutional set-up prepared;
  - Ministerial decision on CARTIF roadmap adopted.

# Proposed CARTIF Workplan



## Activities:

- ❖ Develop a Draft Concept Q2, 2024
- ❖ Senior Officials Consultations on Concept Q2, 2024

- ❖ Action Plan Q3, 2024
- ❖ Working Consultations with interested DMC Q3, 2024
- ❖ Creation of thematic WGs Q3, 2024
- ❖ Regional Thematic Workshops Q4, 2024
- ❖ National Public Consultations Q4, 2024
- ❖ Senior Officials Consultations on Draft Text Q1, 2025

- ❖ Develop a Draft Ministerial Decision Q2, 2025
- ❖ Final Senior Officials Consultations before submitting for Ministerial decision Q2, 2025

# Questions to the Regional Trade Group

- Would you support the overall concept of the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership (CARTIF)? If so, what specific modules you prioritize?
- Would you support the proposed CARTIF workplan implementation and launching senior level consultations? If yes, what are your suggestions?
- What are your key recommendations for research and capacity building activities for CARTIF?

# *Thank you!*

Please contact for further  
comments/suggestions:

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