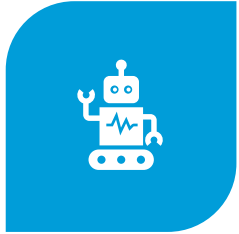


Potential CAREC-wide Free Trade Agreement: Highlights and Prospects

Zulfia Karimova
Principal Regional
Cooperation Specialist,
Asian Development Bank

Research component (2021 – 2022)



**VIRTUAL
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE
INCEPTION
WORKSHOP ON
CAREC FTA (MAY
2021)**



**VIRTUAL
COUNTRY
CONSULTATION
MEETING ON
CAREC FTA (SEP
2021)**



**FTA RESEARCH
REPORT: TRADE
POLICY ISSUES IN
CFTA & EMPIRICAL
ASSESSMENT OF
DIFFERENT CFTA
CONFIGURATIONS
(JUL 2022)**



**REGIONAL
DISSEMINATION
WORKSHOP ON
THE FTA REPORT
(AUG 2022)**



**SYNTHESIS
REPORT AS A
SUMMARY OF
FTA RESEARCH
REPORT
(SEP 2022)**

Capacity Building Component (2021 – 2023)

Focused Capacity Needs Assessment to assess the institutional (macro-level) and the individual (micro-level) trade-policy capacities of CAREC member countries at senior- and mid-levels

Case studies of regional and bilateral FTAs [RCEP; PRC-Georgia FTA, and Eurasian Economic Union] presented at the regional FTA knowledge-sharing workshop (Apr 2022), with PRC, GEO, KAZ and KGZ lessons learned

Developed CAREC FTA Guidelines. based on the FTA Research Report, the cases studies and international good practices

National workshops on potential CAREC-wide FTA for selected CAREC countries - GEO, PAK, UZB, TKM, AZE, and MON

Capacity Building Component (2023)

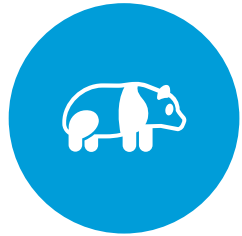
CAREC Regional Training of Trainers conducted in Jan 2023 in Tbilisi, Georgia, comprised of 12 e-modules, in collaboration with CAREC Institute [CI e-learning platform]

Training sessions on preparing to negotiate a potential CAREC-wide FTA in selected CAREC countries – PAK (Mar 2023) and UZB (May 2023)

Targeted national capacity building activity on Trade in Services, e-commerce and FTA Investment-related Provisions for KAZ, KGZ and TAJ (May 2023)

Jointly with UNESCAP, multilateral functionality to examine trade statistics and run tariff liberalization scenarios of Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor [TINA] web portal

Further TA Scope and Prospects



**BETTER
AWARENESS
TOWARDS
POTENTIAL
CAREC FTA**



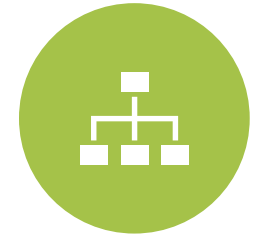
**ANALYTICS AND
KNOWLEDGE
WORK**



**CAPACITY-
BUILDING
ACTIVITIES**

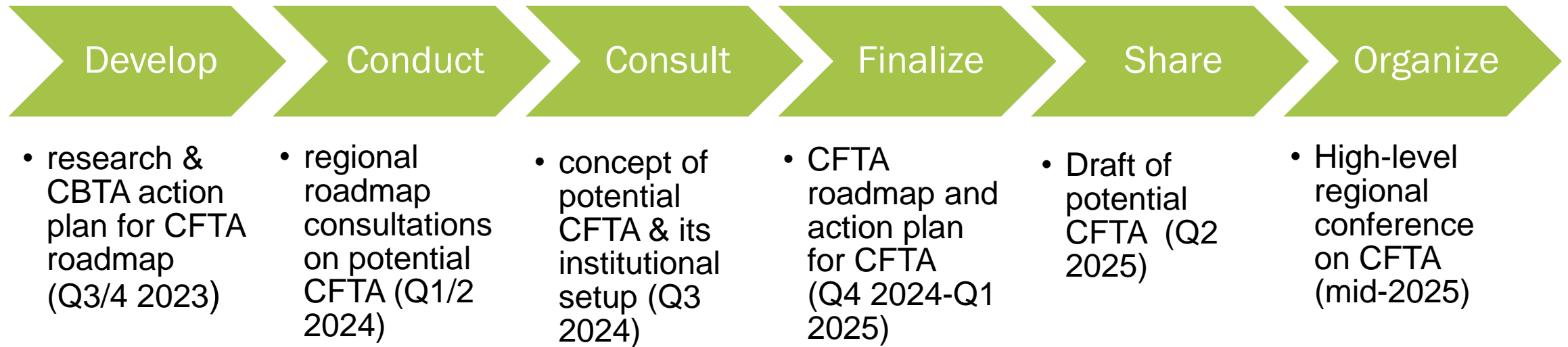


**ROADMAP AND
ACTION PLAN
FOR POTENTIAL
CFTA**



**REGIONAL
DISCUSSION ON
CAREC FTA
POLICY,
CONTENT,
STRUCTURE**

CAREC FTA: Next Steps



Questions for Regional Trade Group

- What are the major take aways and recommendations from the research and capacity building activities?
- What do you see as a major obstacle/s for the potential CFTA agreement?
- Would you support CFTA roadmap development: concept, objectives and proposed structure of the potential CFTA? If yes, what are your suggestions?
- Would you support the proposal to change the CAREC-wide FTA to CAREC Economic Partnership Agreement [CEPA]?

THANK YOU

Zulfia Karimova
Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB

zkarimova@adb.org