

Word count:550

Good afternoon HE Mr. Jabbarov, Minister, Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan,
President Asakawa (of the ADB), VP Chen

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great privilege and pleasure to be invited to speak at the **20th CAREC Ministerial Conference**. I would like to thank VP Chen and his team for extending this gracious invitation.

With a change of a global solution on the horizon and under progress in individual countries, we at AIIB have asked ourselves—what kind of world should we be rebuilding? What role should AIIB play in creating that vision? Hence the theme of this conference is so apt –

“Connectivity, Cooperation, and Resilience in a Digital Era.”

We have identified **five key trends which we believe will be important drivers of the recovery in the coming years.**

The first trend is that healthcare, strategic investments in the health sector are needed if we are to safeguard ourselves against the next pandemic.

The second trend is enhanced investment in climate change mitigation. This also calls for financing for the transition to carbon neutrality. For our part, AIIB has set an ambitious target of ensuring that 50 percent of our approved financing by 2025 will be directed toward climate finance, which, by July 2023, will be in full alignment with the Paris Agreement. AIIB will

apply a methodology to climate financing that aligns with both the Paris Agreement and national transition plans, financing eligible energy, transport, urban, digital and water projects to support low-and-middle-income members in achieving their development targets.

The third trend is the use of technology. In fact, digital-related sectors have been the biggest winners of the pandemic. The health crisis has changed the way we work, study and live.

The fourth trend is the privatization of assets by cash-strapped governments to close the financing gap, exacerbated by the crisis. The role of an MDB like AIIB is to uncover new financing and risk-sharing models to entice more private sector organizations to enter infrastructure sector in emerging markets. We are aiming at 50 percent of AIIB's approved financing to be in the private sector by 2030.

The fifth trend represents a mixed view for trade and supply chains. We believe in globalization and its broad benefits for all parties involved. Opportunities abound for investment in connectivity and cross-border infrastructure. Given that Central Asia is the least integrated region worldwide, connectivity plays a crucial role here.

Looking beyond the pandemic, we maintain that the best way to stimulate growth is to invest in human capital and the infrastructure for tomorrow – infrastructure that is financially, socially and environmentally sustainable. The quality of our investments is therefore key.

Multilateral institutions like AIIB are an important part of this equation. Not just by catalyzing financing but also ensuring high standards in procurement and environmental and social safeguards.

In my new role as the Vice- President of the Corporate Secretariat, I believe that AIIB's investments will continue to evolve encompassing green infrastructure with sustainability, innovation and connectivity—all intricately intertwined at its core.

By investing in the ***Infrastructure for Tomorrow***, we will unlock new capital, new technologies and new ways in which we address climate change and connect Asia internally and with the rest of the world. We are open for business and happy to work with you!

I thank you.