

# FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CAREC WGCC)

26 April 2024, 1:00–3:00 pm (Manila time)

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

### I. Introduction

1. A constituting meeting of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC) was held virtually on 26 April 2024. The establishment of the CAREC WGCC is supported by the regional technical assistance (TA) project “Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change under the CAREC Program”. Officials from CAREC member countries and representatives from development partners participated in the meeting as WGCC members. Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head for Regional Cooperation and Integration, ADB, welcomed the participants, outlined the main objectives of the meeting, and introduced the CAREC Program, its institutional structure, plans, priorities, and critical events for 2024. The agenda of the meeting and a list of the CAREC WGCC members are in Appendix 1 and 2.

### II. Highlights of the Meeting

2. Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), provided an overview of the [Regional Action on Climate Change: a Vision for CAREC](#), endorsed in November 2023 at the 22nd CAREC Ministerial Conference in Tbilisi, Georgia. This included the context under which the Vision was formulated and previous background work, including the CAREC Climate Change Scoping Study and the CAREC platform's role in advancing regional climate actions. Ms. Carmen Garcia Perez, Regional Cooperation Specialist, presented the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the CAREC WGCC for endorsement by the WGCC.

3. The main tasks and functions of the WG are (i) coordinating and accelerating regional climate action in close coordination with committees and working groups across CAREC 2030's sectors and themes, (ii) sharing best practices and identifying priority sectors for climate change adaptation and mitigation, (iii) developing a CAREC Climate Change Action Plan aligned with countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and climate strategies and plans; (iv) mobilizing climate finance, and (v) promoting One CAREC voice on climate change agenda at global and regional forums such as the 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) on 11–22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The proposed agenda of the forthcoming first physical CAREC WGCC meeting (Astana, 29 May) was also introduced and shared. The TOR of the WG and agenda for the meeting on 29 May are in Appendix 3 and 4.

4. Mr. Matteo Mode', Senior Climate Change Expert and ADB Consultant, briefed the participants on the current levels of climate adaptation and mitigation finance in CAREC projects by sector for 2016–2023 and provided an overview of the region's main climate impacts and projections. Six proposed areas of intervention were presented with linkages to the CAREC Climate Change Vision strategic areas and sectors, including proposed outputs and activities. These include (i) climate risk assessment of CAREC assets and investments, and water resources monitoring and forecasting, (ii) decarbonization of transport corridors and trade, (iii) regional grid readiness and integration of renewable resources, (iv) disaster risk management and finance, (v) capacity development, knowledge sharing, climate finance, COP29, and (vi) health and climate change.

5. During the meeting, a virtual poll was conducted to seek participants' views on the main concerns related to climate change in their respective countries and identify priorities for advancing the regional work under the CAREC climate change agenda. The poll summary is in Appendix 5.

6. Following the presentations, member countries and development partners posed questions and provided feedback. These are briefly reported in the table below.

Azerbaijan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested to <b>add urban development resilience</b> to the proposals for climate change initiatives.</li> <li>• Stated the importance of <b>CAREC regional cooperation and support for COP29</b>, which will be hosted in Baku this year. Of particular importance is strengthening <b>regional cooperation with neighboring countries on Caspian Sea adaptation measures</b> (a priority that will be announced in COP29 and will be added in related documents). Health and climate change issues will also be part of COP29 initiatives.</li> <li>• <b>Cooperation</b> with other countries <b>on early warning systems</b> is also essential (Azerbaijan plans to expand its meteorological stations' network).</li> <li>• Other priorities include decarbonization, integration of renewables into the grid, and export of green energy to neighboring countries.</li> </ul>
People's Republic of China (PRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared information on recent and ongoing initiatives, including (i) implementation of its national climate change adaptation strategy (2035) and promoting the formulation and implementation of provincial and local level adaptation plans, with climate resilient cities as entry points; (ii) implementation of carbon peaking and carbon neutrality in socio-economic development; (iii) development of renewables for energy industry and transport; and (iv) active participation in climate change multilateral processes and South-South cooperation with LDCs.</li> <li>• Stated the intention to actively participate in regional cooperation initiatives, such as <b>sharing knowledge and technical experience on low carbon projects</b> and training in this area.</li> </ul>
Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the next NDC update, Georgia plans to reduce emissions to 47% from 35% (on the 1980 baseline). For mitigation, the current focus is on energy, transport, buildings, industry, agriculture, waste, and forestry sectors and developing scenarios on long-term carbon neutrality goals. For adaptation, there is no NAP policy document and no single approach yet; the development of the NAP started earlier this year, and it will take time. However, Georgia has established a multi-hazard early warning system.</li> <li>• Georgia has an agreement with Switzerland and Japan on carbon trading. There is an interest in developing further experience in this area, and the primary focus for the future is on the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS).</li> <li>• Requested the Secretariat to <b>send the proposed climate change initiatives to all CAREC countries for further feedback</b>.</li> </ul>
Kazakhstan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kazakhstan is committed to meeting its decarbonization and GHG reduction goals (15% reduction by 2030). It has introduced a quota system that regulates decarbonization for oil, mining, gas, and processing sectors. Kazakhstan has developed a road map for carbon neutrality with targets for 2060 and relies on ADB support for NDC development.</li> <li>• Kazakhstan's critical priorities for resilience and adaptation are for the most vulnerable sectors, such as water, agriculture, forestry, and DRR (reference was made to the developed Water Sector Strategy and participation in UNGA water summit in September).</li> <li>• Proposed to <b>include in future WGCC discussions</b> (including at the Astana meeting on 29 May) the following topics: (i) <b>preparedness and response to disaster events, climate adaptation, loss and damage, and related issues</b> (Kazakhstan recently became a member of the Loss and Damage Fund and noted that these issues will also be discussed at COP29); and (ii) carbon market development at regional scale, including</li> </ul>

	potential support for <b>methodological analysis of best practices to incentivize and develop carbon markets</b> . Kazakhstan has ETS and stressed the importance of <b>capacity building and knowledge sharing</b> , including monitoring, reporting, and transparency on GHG emissions.
Kyrgyz Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyrgyz Republic is developing the NDC for energy agriculture, forestry, and land use sectors. The country seeks to decrease fossil fuel, increase renewable energy, and upgrade its energy grid. Key adaptation priorities include health, biodiversity, agriculture, irrigation, and emergencies. The Kyrgyz Republic plans to continue working on its concept for long-term climate goals, carbon market development (under Art. 6), and transparency of climate action.</li> <li>The Kyrgyz Republic was instrumental in recognizing the unique role of mountainous countries at the past COP28, opening opportunities for joint negotiations. An essential item for COP29 will be <b>financial compensation for loss and damage for mountainous countries</b>.</li> <li>No remarks on TOR or agenda for 29 May.</li> </ul>
Mongolia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No statement received</li> </ul>
Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requested online (paperless) access to relevant CAREC documents for the physical meeting in Astana on 29 May.</li> </ul>
Tajikistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tajikistan needs support for the NDC implementation plan (its development was supported by ADB, including the financial plan). NDC's financing plan is \$1 billion to implement all 80 adaptation and mitigation actions across sectors. NDCs focus on crucial sectors for energy (Tajikistan has a high potential for renewable energy generation, also to offset emissions of neighboring countries), agriculture (more than 60% of people are employed in agriculture, and 20 agriculture-related activities were identified in the NDCs), and industry. NAP development is expected to be completed this year (2024).</li> <li>Suggested that CAREC supports its member countries with <b>implementing NDCs at the regional level and bankable projects</b> that can receive climate finance.</li> <li>Proposed that the <b>WGCC meets more frequently</b> (e.g., virtual meeting in June) and requested the Secretariat to assess whether a half-day duration for physical meetings (e.g., meeting on 29 May) is sufficient for substantive discussions.</li> </ul>
Turkmenistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NAP was adopted in 2019. The NDCs update was recently approved by the President in 2024. As part of the forestry sector, 3 million seedlings have been planted yearly in the past few years.</li> <li>Turkmenistan is implementing measures for reducing emissions/leakage from gas sector methane (intersectoral commission on methane emissions reduction, refurbishment and update of gas pipelines and related equipment, reduction and elimination of leakage from new gas deposits development, and measures and standards for the gas industry).</li> <li><b>Interested and ready to cooperate with CAREC countries</b>, and thankful for the presentations prepared by the Secretariat.</li> </ul>
Uzbekistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No statement received</li> </ul>
CAREC ECO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The focus should be on <b>aligning with and supporting the regional adaptation strategy for Central Asia</b>, as it is the only document agreed upon by the five Central Asia countries (to be discussed in the Central Asia climate change conference on May 27-29).</li> </ul>
EBRD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active in three main areas: (i) energy transition (whole of system approach – e.g., development of low-carbon pathway for Uzbekistan, linked to</li> </ul>

	<p>renewable energy ambitions and targets), (ii) greening financial systems (scaling capacity of financial institutions, and increasing climate risk management capacity, and corporate governance); and (iii) climate adaptation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stressed the importance of understanding regional risks and impacts on sectors, vulnerabilities, and interdependencies (e.g., acute and chronic risks such as water availability and supply disruption for agriculture, flooding of roads, disruption of grids, etc.).</li> <li>• On adaptation, <b>development partners need to work as a group to invest in critical infrastructure for water, energy, and transport.</b> Changing the perception in the region that climate adaptation is not a cost but an investment for the future is an essential and powerful joint message from development partners that the CAREC platform can support.</li> </ul>
GCF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GCF is well positioned to be an enabler and play a catalytic role in driving climate investments and impact in Central Asia and the Caucasus,</b> thanks to using a <b>wide range of climate finance instruments.</b> GCF's <b>Readiness Program</b> increases national and regional capacities and preparedness to partner in accelerating action in addressing climate change processes through mitigation and adaptation investments.</li> <li>• <b>The TOR is comprehensive.</b></li> </ul>
World Bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committed to supporting the development of green, resilient, and inclusive cities and regions in Central Asia and to promoting disaster preparedness and risk reduction (WB's regional programs and operations include the Central Asia Resilient and Low-Carbon Cities study (CARL-Cities), the Strengthening Financial Resilience and Advancing Risk Reduction Program funded by the EU, and the Central Asia Hydrometeorology Modernization Project).</li> <li>• Noted that there is an <b>overlap</b> between the WGCC physical meeting in Astana on 29 May and the <b>Central Asia Climate Change Conference on 27–29 May</b> in Almaty.</li> <li>• Stressed the need to <b>coordinate better among development partners,</b> integrate private sector and civil society views and actions, and work towards an effective platform to help implement these commitments.</li> <li>• Suggested to <b>share information on climate change-related events in the region</b> (there could be a joint calendar where partners can post and share events).</li> </ul>

### III. Conclusion and Next Steps

7. In her closing remarks, Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova emphasized the need to maintain a regional focus and strengthen coordination among development partners, share information, and pursue joint initiatives. She also urged all member countries to actively contribute with their expertise to the WGCC and help advance climate action in our region.

8. As part of this first constituting meeting, the TOR of the WGCC was endorsed. Next steps include: (i) finalize the agenda for the first physical meeting of the WGCC to be held in Astana on 29 May; (ii) share the presentation materials with WGCC members for further feedback on the six proposed areas for CAREC climate change initiatives and projects; (iii) further coordinate with development partners to share information on ongoing initiatives and climate-change related events in the region, and identify potential joint regional initiatives, including at the upcoming COP29; and (iv) prepare a timeline for the development of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan, including schedule of future WGCC meetings (at least on a quarterly basis).

**Constituting Virtual Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change**  
26 April 2024 via [Zoom](#)

### Background and Objectives

As part of the implementation of the [Regional Action on Climate Change: a Vision for CAREC](#) (CAREC Climate Change Vision) endorsed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference on 30 November 2023 in Tbilisi, Georgia, the CAREC Secretariat is initiating the establishment of the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC). The CAREC WGCC will focus on aligning Paris Agreement-related activities in CAREC's priority clusters and cross-cutting thematic areas. It will serve as an essential platform to (i) coordinate and accelerate regional climate action in the CAREC region, (ii) share best practices and experiences on and identify priority sectors for climate change adaptation and mitigation, (iii) mobilize climate finance, and (iv) promote One CAREC voice on climate change agenda at global and regional forums such as the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29) on 11–22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

12:55–13:00	<b>Registration</b>
13:00–13:05	<b>Opening Remarks and Introduction to the CAREC Program</b> Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration (CWRC), Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank
13:05–13:15	<b>Implementation of the CAREC Climate Change Vision</b> Kristian Rosbach, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), ADB
13:15–13:20	<b>Virtual Polls on Climate Change Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are your views on climate change? (multiple choice-mc)</li> <li>• What are the main impacts of climate change in your country? (mc)</li> <li>• What are your main concerns about climate impacts in your country? (mc)</li> </ul>
13:20–13:30	<b>Adoption of CAREC WGCC Terms of Reference and Agenda for the first physical WGCC meeting on 29 May 2024 in Astana</b> Carmen Maria Garcia Perez, Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB
13:30–13:45	<b>Presentation of Proposed CAREC Climate Change Initiatives</b> Matteo Modè, ADB Senior Climate Change Consultant
13:45–13:55	<b>Virtual Polls on Proposed CAREC Working Group Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what areas should CAREC engage regarding climate change? (mc)</li> <li>• How would you rank the ADB-suggested climate change actions? (mc)</li> <li>• What kind of support do you need to integrate climate change into policies, plans, and interventions? (open question)</li> </ul>
13:55–14:40	<b>Country Statements and Presentations on Climate Change Action</b>  Statements from Heads of Delegations  Moderator: Mr. Kristian Rosbach, ADB

14:40–14:55	<b>Development Partner Statements and Presentations on Climate Change Action</b> Statements from Heads of Delegations Moderator: Mr. Kristian Rosbach, ADB
14:55–15:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, ADB

## Constituting Virtual Meeting of the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change

26 April 2024 via [Zoom](#)

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### A. COUNTRY DELEGATES

##### I. AZERBAIJAN

1. Ms. Gunel Mammadova, Chief Adviser, Social Policy Division, Sustainable Development and Social Policy Department, Ministry of Economy
2. Mr. Fuad Humbatov, Head of International Cooperation and Climate Change Division, National Hydro-Meteorological Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

##### II. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

3. Ms. Yuyi Wang, Director, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment
4. Ms. Na An, Project Officer, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center, Ministry of Ecology and Environment.

##### III. GEORGIA

5. Mr. Kakha Lomashvili, Senior Specialist, Climate Change Division, Environment and of the Climate Change Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture
6. Mr. Nikoloz Kholodov, Chief Specialist, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Implementation and Promotion Division, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

##### IV. KAZAKHSTAN

7. Ms. Saule Sabiyeva, Director, Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
8. Ms. Shattyk Tastemirova, Head, Climate Change Adaptation Division, Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
9. Ms. Aizhan Mamedaliyeva, Chief expert, Climate Change Adaptation Division, Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan

##### V. THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

10. Ms. Aida Duishenbieva, Chief Specialist, Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision

##### VI. MONGOLIA

11. Mr. Zorigt Amarsanaa, Climate Change Adaptation and Meteorology Policy Planning Specialist, Climate Change and Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism
12. Ms. Doljinsuren Myagmar, Sustainable Development Goals, Environmental Education Policy and Planning Senior Officer, Climate Change and Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism

##### VII. PAKISTAN

13. Dr. Mazhar Hayat, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change

##### VIII. TAJIKISTAN

14. Mr. Turakul Murodov, Deputy Head, Center for Implementation of Investment Projects, Committee for Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
15. Mr. Sattor Saidov, Head of the Climate Change and Ozone Layer Research Centre of the Agency on Hydrometeorology of the Committee on Environmental Protection under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

#### **IX. TURKMENISTAN**

16. Mr. Dovran Yagmyrov, Head, Department for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environmental Protection
17. Mr. Allanazar Kajarov, Lead Specialist of State Environmental Expertise, Certification and Licensing, Department for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environmental Protection

#### **X. UZBEKISTAN**

18. Mr. Timur Sabitov, Head, Project Management Department, Center for Green Transformation and Adaptation to Climate Change, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change

### **B. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

#### **I. ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK**

19. Mr. Xing Zhang, Senior Climate Policy Specialist

#### **II. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

20. Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRC
21. Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), CWRC
22. Ms. Carmen Garcia Perez, Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
23. Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
24. Ms. Niloofar Sadeghi, Water Resources Specialist, SG-AFNR
25. Mr. Kenzhekan Abuov, Senior Project Officer, KARM
26. Ms. Irene de Roma, Senior Programs Officer, CWRC
27. Mr. Matteo Mode', Senior Climate Change Specialist, Consultant
28. Ms. Kat Coballes, Climate Change Officer, CCRE
29. Mr. Ashraf Kuliyeu, Advisor (Azerbaijan)
30. Ms. Ekaterine Koroshinadze, Regional Cooperation Coordinator
31. Mr. Wasif Mullick, Advisor (Pakistan)
32. Mr. Muhammad Ali, Regional Cooperation Coordinator
33. Mr. Diyar Tasym, Advisor (Kazakhstan)
34. Ms. Guldana Sadykova, Senior Regional Cooperation Coordinator
35. Mr. Meder Turgunbekov, Advisor (Kyrgyz Republic)
36. Ms. Aidana Berdybekova, Regional Cooperation Coordinator
37. Mr. Rustam Aminjanov, Advisor (Tajikistan)
38. Ms. Nodira Odinaeva, Regional Cooperation Coordinator
39. Mr. Durdy Ilamanov, Advisor (Turkmenistan)
40. Mr. Nadir Safaev, Advisor (Uzbekistan)
41. Mr. Johannes Linn, Consultant
42. Ms. Jen Lapis, Consultant

#### **III. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK INSTITUTE**

43. Ms. Dina Azhgaliyeva, Senior Research Fellow

#### **IV. CAREC INSTITUTE**



44. Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director 2

**V. CAREC ECO**

45. Mr. Dilorvarsho Dustzoda, Acting Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Program Manager; ReCATH Project Manager

46. Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia

**VI. EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

47. Mr. Sung-Ah Kyun, AD, Head, Green Policy & Climate Analytics

48. Mr. Anvar Nasritdinov, Principal Manager

**VII. GREEN CLIMATE FUND**

49. Mr. Maksim Surkov, Regional Manager, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), Mongolia/China/Korea

**VIII. WORLD BANK**

50. Ms. Urvashi Narain, Sustainable Development Program Leader for Central Asia

## Terms of Reference for the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change

### Background

The CAREC region faces significant impacts from climate change today, which are expected to aggravate further, as demonstrated in the [CAREC Climate Change Scoping Study](#). Addressing the causes and effects of climate change in the region is of the highest urgency. It will require prompt and effective national and regional responses. CAREC is well placed as a platform to coordinate climate action in the region.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference in November 2023 adopted the CAREC Climate Change Vision (CCC Vision). The CCC Vision represents an ambitious agenda designed to ensure adequate regional climate action by CAREC member countries and development partners during 2024–2030.

### Role and Functions

The role of the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC) is to support the CAREC Climate Change Steering Committee's (CCSC) efforts on climate action with technical advice and substantive input in the following areas of the CCSC's responsibility, including decisions regarding the appropriate sequencing of the various activities to be pursued:

- Coordinate with and guide other CAREC institutions and sector-specific committees and working groups in the review of the strategies, action plans, and project portfolios of the five priority clusters and cross-cutting priorities to ensure alignment with and support for the implementation of the CAREC Climate Change Vision;
- Develop the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan;
- Develop the CAREC climate project portfolio;
- Ensure that the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan and climate project portfolio are aligned with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Climate Strategies and Plans for adaptation and mitigation of CAREC countries, as applicable;
- Identify and develop specific regional initiatives to strengthen the enabling environment for climate action by harmonizing the legal and regulatory environment and by building capacity;
- Build and maintain a multistakeholder consensus across the region;
- Gather and share best practices for regional climate action;
- Develop and launch a strategic communications plan for CAREC's Climate Change Action Plan;
- Work with development partners to seek and secure project funding for regional climate projects and avoid duplication of efforts;
- Build public-private partnerships for regional climate action;
- Annually report to the CAREC Ministerial Conference on the implementation progress of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan;
- Review and update the CAREC Climate Vision document and the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan every three years to adapt to changing conditions and needs and
- The Working Group will meet at least twice per year. During 2024, the CAREC Secretariat will chair the WGCC, after which the CAREC host country representative will chair the meetings.

The CAREC Secretariat will provide organizational support for the Working Group and prepare draft documents for its review, input, and, where appropriate, endorsement.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change

### Draft Agenda

29 May 2024, Astana, Kazakhstan

#### Background and Objectives

As part of the implementation of the [Regional Action on Climate Change: a Vision for CAREC](#) (CAREC Climate Change Vision) endorsed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference on 30 November 2023 in Tbilisi, Georgia, the CAREC Secretariat is initiating the establishment of the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC). The CAREC WGCC will focus on aligning Paris Agreement-related activities in CAREC's priority clusters and cross-cutting thematic areas. It will serve as an essential platform to (i) coordinate and accelerate regional climate action in the CAREC region, (ii) share best practices and experiences on and identify priority sectors for climate change adaptation and mitigation, (iii) mobilize climate finance, and (iv) promote One CAREC voice on climate change agenda at global and regional forums such as the 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) on 11–22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

14:15–14:30	<b>Registration</b>
14:30–14:35	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB
14:35–14:40	<b>Introduction of Program</b> Objective: Overview of the outcomes of the first virtual meeting of the WG, an initial work plan for 2024/2025, and the goals and agenda for this WG meeting.  Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, CWRC, CWRD, ADB
14:40–16:00	<b>Session 1. Mainstreaming Climate Change across CAREC 2030's operational areas</b> Objective: Align existing sectoral strategies and projects with the Paris Agreement and countries' climate commitments and identify potential climate-related regional projects and initiatives in the sectors.  <i>Presentations of CAREC Cluster Leaders</i> <b>Q&amp;A (15 mins)</b>
16:00–16:20	<b>Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break</b>
16:20–17:40	<b>Session 2. Financing Regional Climate Projects</b> Objectives: Discussing Financing and Regional Climate Change Projects, including showcasing ongoing project examples of regional projects in the CAREC region.  <i>Presentations of Selective Projects by CAREC Member Countries and Development Partners</i> <b>Q&amp;A (15 mins)</b>

17:40–18:00	<b>Wrap-up</b> <i>Objective:</i> Summary of key takeaways from the discussions and next steps.  CAREC Senior Official, Kazakhstan (TBC) Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, CWRC, CWRD, ADB
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## Summary of CAREC WGCC Virtual Meeting Poll Questions

During the CAREC WGCC Virtual Meeting, views and inputs were gathered from CAREC delegates and development partners. Below is a summary of the feedback received.

**1. Views on Climate Change:** The majority (19 out of 20) expressed concern about climate change and felt the need for action. Few respondents raised issues about more urgent priorities or lack of evidence.

**2. Climate Change and Environmental Impacts:** Respondents highlighted various impacts in their countries, including (ranked in order of concern) droughts and water scarcity, natural hazards, air pollution, and heat waves. Waste pollution, deforestation, and wildfires were also significant concerns.

**3. Concerns about Climate Impacts:** Main concerns included (ranked in order of concern) impacts on the economy and livelihoods, water scarcity, disruption, and damage to services and infrastructure, which has implications on health and energy production challenges.

**4. Areas for CAREC Engagement in Climate Change:** Suggestions for CAREC involvement in the next five years included (ranked in order): (i) climate risk assessments, (ii) grid readiness and renewable energy integration, (iii) disaster risk management and finance, (iv) decarbonization of transport corridors, (v) climate data and knowledge sharing and capacity support, and (vi) climate change and health initiatives.

**5. Knowledge and Support for Climate Change:** The majority of respondents (13 out of 19) stated that they have sufficient knowledge and capacity to deal with climate change, while other responses were either neutral (4), or disagreed (2).

**6. Support needed for integrating climate change in policies, plans, and interventions:** Main responses included financial and technical support to develop bankable investment projects and implement national and regional priorities, support for national strategies and climate assessments, and capacity building and knowledge sharing. Other respondents emphasized the importance of dialogue events, capacity building, grant support, expertise sharing, climate financing accessibility, and formulation of national action plans.

**Closing Poll Questions:** All participants found the provided valuable information for their work. Most respondents deemed the duration and frequency of future virtual meetings appropriate. Most respondents indicated that the WGCC should meet quarterly, while fewer indicated every two months or semi-annually.

**Topics for Future Meetings and Comments:** Suggestions included land degradation, disaster risk management, and climate adaptation, including project planning and regional cooperation, as well as exchange of best practices. Participants appreciated the productive and efficient meeting, with some requesting more time for open-ended questions and a focus on regional climate action.

**Overall, the virtual meeting generated valuable insights on climate change concerns, impacts, required support, and recommendations for future engagements, reflecting a shared commitment to addressing climate challenges in the CAREC region.**