



**CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION PROGRAM  
NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS' MEETING  
20 October 2022**

**SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

**I. Introduction**

1. A Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Meeting with National Focal Points (NFPs) was held virtually on 20th October 2022. Delegations from CAREC member countries participated along with CAREC Development Partners (DPs) representatives and the CAREC Institute (CI). Mr. Jin Lu, Deputy Director-General, Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (PRC), chaired the meeting. Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Ms. Teresa Kho, Director General, East Asia Department (EARD), ADB co-chaired the meeting.

2. The key objective of the meeting was to review the progress made in major CAREC deliverables and arrangements of the 21st Ministerial Conference (MC) to be held virtually on 24th November 2022. The participants deliberated the proposed theme and the key deliverables: (i) the CAREC Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery; (ii) the Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region; (iii) the CAREC Green Energy Alliance and (iv) Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change as a Crosscutting Theme Under CAREC 2030. The chair and co-chairs highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic and recent geopolitical challenges continue to pose negative impacts on the CAREC region. In addition, as the region has been affected by climate change, invigorated regional cooperation, and broader and deeper partnership among the CAREC member countries is needed along with the timely proposed key deliverables which will provide collective and practical support the green, sustainable, and inclusive recovery in the CAREC region. The agenda and list of participants are attached as Appendix 1.

**II. Meeting Highlights**

3. The meeting discussed the four major deliverables.
- a. **Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery:**  
The meeting noted that the framework is essential, timely, and relevant in the current

regional context. Member countries acknowledged the framework provides plentiful backgrounds and principles to shape further national policy and redefine regional approaches for economic recovery. Member countries reassured their commitment to regional cooperation and integration and their support for green, sustainable, and inclusive development in the CAREC region. While offering some comments and suggestions, member countries welcomed the draft of the framework and agreed to its submission to the MC for endorsement. They also noted the importance of coordination of other global, regional, and national initiatives for synergy returns, and suggested updating the indicators in the framework and including indexes from all member countries. It was also recommended to include innovative experiences of member countries and consider the vitality of connectivity that can be achieved at multimodal corridors. The Secretariat noted that further feedback and information from member countries could be provided to refine and finalize the framework by the end of October.

- b. **Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region:** Member countries acknowledged that agriculture is a high-priority economic sector for all CAREC member countries, and that there is an urgent need for regional cooperation in the current regional context. The meeting agreed that the framework contributes to productive, resilient, and environmentally sustainable agriculture and enhances food security in the CAREC region through modernized agriculture and strengthened regional cooperation. It was suggested that the framework should include an analysis of strengths, opportunities, and potential areas of cooperation. It was also recommended that the framework should be result-oriented and produce tangible outcomes with the strong support of ADB in the implementation of the framework. It was highlighted that a CAREC Working Group on agricultural development and food security should contribute to capacity building and monitor the implementation of the framework. The draft framework will be finalized with these suggestions.
- c. **CAREC Green Energy Alliance:** The meeting supported the development of the Green Energy Alliance, acknowledging the significance of a financing vehicle to increase energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the CAREC region. Member countries agreed that the region is home to some of the most energy-intensive economies and that the share of variable renewable energy, particularly solar and wind, is extremely low. They, however, suggested a few points for the project. Azerbaijan suggested to ensure the security of data by applying cybersecurity measures, as well as the speed of the digital platform. The PRC also expressed hope that the Alliance will actively strengthen engagement and cooperation with international institutions like the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance, as well as the private sector to expand its partnership and increase visibility. PRC said it found that some data on China's energy sector development in the report are incorrect or outdated and submitted the corrections after the meeting. Uzbekistan, for its part, said the Alliance should become a marketplace for digital projects, providing access to investment-ready green energy projects, affordable funding and project preparation assistance.

- d. **Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change as a Crosscutting Theme Under CAREC 2030:** Member countries approved the main thrust of the draft scoping study and acknowledged that the CAREC region contributes to carbon emissions causing climate change and is particularly vulnerable to the consequences of climate change. The PRC shared three comments. First, it noted that the paper mentions that phasing down coal should be one of principal areas for energy transition in the CAREC region. PRC said that while it is necessary for countries to reduce dependence on coal, it views that the process, or the broader green transition of the energy sector, should be achieved in a gradual and orderly manner, while ensuring energy security and considering the circumstances of member countries. Second, it also expressed willingness to provide strong support to the south-south cooperation on climate change particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative. Third, on the proposal of establishing a facility to finance the preparation of freestanding bankable climate projects, PRC asked the ADB to carry out a feasibility study on the establishment of the facility. In its separate comment, Azerbaijan noted the need for a clarification and renewal of some statistical data and international indexes, and the addition of latest information about the actions taken by the country against climate change particularly in the chapters of energy, investment in wind and solar energy, transport and economic corridors, smart cities, etc.

4. The CAREC Secretariat thanked NFPs and country delegates for their support and thoughtful feedback on the key deliverables. The Secretariat also noted observations and suggestions and committed to consider the advice and revert for any clarifications before their finalization and submission to the CAREC MC.

5. The CAREC Secretariat informed the meeting that the 21st Ministerial Conference is planned to be held virtually on 24th November 2022, with the theme ***"Revitalizing Regional Cooperation for Green, Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery."*** The MC will consider the endorsement of the Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery, Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region, CAREC Green Energy Alliance, and Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change as a Crosscutting Theme Under CAREC 2030, as well as the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Statement. The draft statement will be shared with member countries for feedback and confirmation prior to the MC.

6. The meeting expressed its appreciation to the PRC for chairing the meeting. The meeting also expressed its gratitude to ADB and the CAREC Secretariat for helping organize and conducting the meeting.



**VIRTUAL CAREC NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS' MEETING**  
**20 October 2022 (1430-1600, Manila time)**

**Agenda**

<b>20 October 2022 (Thursday)</b>	
<b>1430–1600</b>	<b>CAREC National Focal Points' (NFP) Meeting</b>
	<p><b>Chair:</b>            Mr. Jin Lu            CAREC National Focal Point            Deputy Director-General            Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation            Ministry of Finance, PRC</p> <p><b>To be assisted by the CAREC Secretariat:</b>            Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov            Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB</p> <p>Ms. M. Teresa Kho            Director General, East Asia Regional Department (EARD), ADB</p> <p><i>Participants: CAREC country delegations</i></p>
1430–1435	<p><b>Opening Remarks (5 mins)</b>            Mr. Jin Lu            Deputy Director-General            Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation            Ministry of Finance, PRC</p>
1435–1440	<p><b>Welcome Remarks and Introduction to the Agenda (5 mins)</b>            Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov            Director General, CWRD, ADB</p>

1440–1510	<p><b>Session 1: Consideration of CAREC Deliverables for 2022 (30 mins)</b>  <b>CAREC Deliverables for MC Endorsement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Post-Pandemic Framework for a Green, Sustainable, and Inclusive Recovery</b>  <i>by Dr. Hans Holzhaecker, Chief Economist, CAREC Institute</i></li> <li>- <b>Cooperation Framework for Agricultural Development and Food Security in the CAREC Region</b>  <i>by Mr. Giap Minh Bui, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division, CWRD</i></li> <li>- <b>CAREC Green Energy Alliance</b>  <i>by Ms. Sarin Abado, Energy Specialist, Energy Division, CWRD</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Other CAREC Deliverable</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change as a Crosscutting Theme Under CAREC 2030</b>  <i>by Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, CWRD</i></li> </ul>
1510–1540	<p><b>Open Discussion (30 mins)</b>  <i>Country delegates will be invited to share their feedback and insights on the session. This will be facilitated by Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, CWRD, ADB</i></p>
1540–1555	<p><b>Session 2. Theme and Structure of the 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference (15 mins)</b>  <i>The CAREC Secretariat will present the theme and structure of the 21st CAREC Ministerial Conference (MC), including expected deliverables and draft of Joint Ministerial Statement. The PRC will provide remarks on the preparations for the 20th CAREC Virtual Ministerial Conference.</i></p> <p><i>Onsite feedback will be requested from member countries on the theme and structure of the 21<sup>st</sup> MC. In the interest of time, written comments on the Joint Ministerial Statement will be sent by 27 October 2022. This session will be facilitated by Ms. M. Teresa Kho, Director General, EARD.</i></p>
1555–1600	<p><b>Wrap up and Closing Remarks (5 mins)</b>  Ms. M. Teresa Kho  Director General, EARD</p>



**VIRTUAL CAREC NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS' MEETING  
20 October 2022 (1430-1600, Manila time)**

**List of Participants**

**I. CAREC COUNTRIES**

**A. Azerbaijan**

1. Mr. Samad Bashirli, Deputy Minister of Economy, CAREC National Focal Point

**B. People's Republic of China**

2. Mr. Jin Lu, Deputy Director General, Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation (DIEFC), Ministry of Finance (MOF), CAREC National Focal Point

**C. Georgia**

3. Ms. Mariam Gabunia, Head, Foreign Trade Policy Department, MOESD, CAREC Trade Policy Sector Focal Point-will attend instead of GEO NFP.
4. Mr. Irakli Nikoleishvili, Chief Specialist, Foreign Trade Policy Department, MOESD

**D. Kazakhstan**

5. Mr. Abzal Abdikarimov, Vice Minister of National Economy, CAREC National Focal Point
6. Ms. Bibigul Masserbayeva, Deputy Director, Department of International Economic Cooperation, Ministry of National Economy
7. Ms. Shattyk Tastemirova – Head of Division, Department of Climate Policy and Green Technology, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources
8. Ms. Ainur Agzam, Chief expert, Department of International Economic Cooperation, Ministry of National Economy
9. Ms. Zhanetta Yergaliyeva, Chief Expert, Department of transit and transport logistics development, Ministry Industry and Infrastructural Development
10. Ms. Aizhan Mamedaliyeva, Chief Expert, Department of Climate Policy and Green Technology, Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources

**E. Kyrgyz Republic**

11. Mr. Kanat Abdrahmanov, Deputy Minister of Economy and Commerce, CAREC National Focal Point

## **F. Mongolia**

## **G. Pakistan**

12. Dr. Irfan Abbas Shah, Joint Secretary, Economic Affairs Division, CAREC National Focal Point
13. Mr. Ghulam Sadiq Afridi, Member (SSD), Pakistan Agricultural Research Council
14. Mr. Ali Raza Hanjra, Project Director (RIBS), Federal Board of Revenue, CAREC Trade Facilitation Focal Point
15. Mr. Aftab ur Rehman Rana, Managing Director, Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation, CAREC Tourism Sector Focal Point

## **H. Tajikistan**

16. Mr. Nematullo Hikmatullozoda, Assistant to the President of Tajikistan on Economic Issues, Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, CAREC National Focal Point

## **I. Turkmenistan**

17. Mr. Muhammetgeldi Serdarov, Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy, CAREC National Focal Point  
Mr. Muhammetgeldi Serdarov, Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy (CAREC NFP)
18. Mr. Serdar Saparov, Deputy Minister of Energy
19. Mr. Begmyrat Atayev, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
20. Ms. Galina Romanova, Head of Public Finance and Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy
21. Mr. Bayram Hadjiyev, Head of Department for Economics Sectors' Development and Financing, Ministry of Finance and Economy
22. Ms. Govher Shykhlyeva, Head of Division for Development and Financing of Social and Cultural Sphere, Ministry of Finance and Economy
23. Mr. Maksat Kutlymyradov, Head of International Division, Public Finance and Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy
24. Mr. Begench Durdymammedov, Senior Specialist, International Division, Public Finance and Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy

## **J. Uzbekistan**

25. Mr. Abdulla Khashimov, Head, Department of Development of Transit Potential, Logistics, and Transit Corridors, Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade (HOD- no NFP yet)

## **II. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

### **A. Asian Development Bank**

26. Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD)
27. Ms. M. Teresa Kho, Director General, East Asia Department (EARD)
28. Mr. Nianshan Zhang, Deputy Director General, CWRD
29. Ms. Cindy Malvicini, Senior Advisor, CWRD
30. Mr. Safdar Parvez, Advisor, EARD
31. Ms. Yasmin Siddiqi, Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division (CWER), CWRD
32. Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division (CWRC), CWRD
33. Mr. Saad Paracha, Unit Head, CAREC/ Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
34. Mr. Nariman Mannapbekov, Country Director, ADB Resident Mission Kazakhstan
35. Mr. Artur Andrysiak, Country Director, ADB Resident Mission Turkmenistan
36. Mr. Enrico Pinali, Officer-in-Charge, Uzbekistan Resident Mission
37. Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, EAPF
38. Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Regional Cooperation Specialist, EAPF
39. Mr. Seung Min Lee, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
40. Mr. Minsoo Lee, Senior Economist, CWRC
41. Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Economist, CWRC
42. Ms. Sarin Abado, Energy Specialist, CWEN
43. Mr. Kazuhiro Yoshida, Senior Water Resources Specialist, CWER
44. Mr. Giap Minh Bui, Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Economist, CWER
45. Ms. Ramola Naik Singru, Principal Urban Development Specialist, CWUW
46. Ms. Irene de Roma, Programs Officer, CWRC
47. Ms. Honey May Manzano-Guerzon, Associate Knowledge Management Officer, CWRC
48. Ms. Mary Ann Magadia, Programs Analyst, CWRC
49. Ms. Licel Calderon-Tanquintic, Senior Operations Assistant, CWRC
50. Ms. Johanna Camille Cayco, Associate Communications Officer, DOC
51. Ms. Aihua Wu, Economics Officer, PRC Resident Mission

## **III. CAREC INSTITUTE**

52. Mr. Syed Shakeel Shah, Director
53. Ms. Jingjing Huang, Deputy Director 1
54. Dr. Iskandar Abdullaev, Deputy Director 2
55. Dr. Hans Holzhaecker, Chief Economist
56. Mr. Khalid Umar, Chief of Strategy Planning Division
57. Mr. Eisa Khan Ayoob Ayoobi, Chief of Capacity Building
58. Mr. Josh Hu, Chief of HR and Finance Division
59. Mr. Gulam Samad, Senior Research Specialist
60. Mr. Rovshan Mahmudov, Senior Capacity Building Specialist

## **IV. ADB/CAREC CONSULTANTS**



61. Mr. Ashraf Kuliyeu, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Azerbaijan
62. Ms. Ekaterine Koroshinadze, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Georgia
63. Mr. Laifei Xiong, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, PRC
64. Mr. Diyar Tassym, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Kazakhstan
65. Ms. Guldana Sadykova, Senior Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Kazakhstan
66. Mr. Meder Turgunbekov, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Kyrgyz Republic
67. Ms. Aidana Berdybekova, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Kyrgyz Republic
68. Ms. Bujinlkham Erdenebaatar, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Mongolia
69. Mr. Muhammad Ali, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, Pakistan
70. Mr. Shahid Wakil, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Pakistan
71. Mr. Rustam Aminjanov, Advisor the CAREC NFP, Tajikistan
72. Mr. Durdy Ilamanov, Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Turkmenistan
73. Mr. Nadir Safaev, Senior Advisor to the CAREC NFP, Uzbekistan
74. Ms. Reneli Gloria, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, ADB HQ
75. Mr. Alzeus Alzate, Administration Assistant, ADB HQ
76. Ms. Sol Han, Consultant, CWRC
77. Ms. Edwina Zhang, Consultant, CWRC
78. Ms. Alina Alymkulova, Consultant, CWRC
79. Ms. Shuqi Su, Consultant, CWRC
80. Mr. Naveed Durrani, Consultant, CWRC
81. Mr. Shahab Mirza, Web Developer and Admin, CWRC
82. Mr. Muhammad Muddassir Naveed, TA Coordinator, CWRC
83. Ms. Loreli De Dios, Consultant, EAPF
84. Ms. Aiken Tafgar, Consultant, EAPF
85. Mr. Julius Santos, Consultant, EAPF
86. Ms. Camille Isles, Consultant, EAPF
87. Dr. Johannes Linn, Consultant, CWRC
88. Ms. Gulshat Raissova, Consultant, CWRC
89. Mr. Turdakun Tashbolotov, Consultant, CWRC

## **V. INTERPRETERS**

90. Mr. Janna Ustemirova
91. Mr. Rustam Sataev
92. Ms. Luna Zhang
93. Ms. Lacy Lan