



## **CAREC SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING**

11-12 June 2026 | Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Chair: Ms. Davaasuren Sodnomdarjaa  
Deputy Minister of Economy and Development  
Government of Mongolia

Assisted by: Ms. Leah Gutierrez  
Director General, Central and West Asia Department  
Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Mr. Muhammad Ehsan Khan  
Director General, East Asia Department, ADB

### **Background and Objectives**

The 2026 CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) serves as the critical preparatory platform for the 25th CAREC Ministerial Conference (MC) planned in September 2026, marking a significant milestone—a quarter-century of regional cooperation in the CAREC region.

The SOM brings together National Focal Points (NFPs), development partners, and sector experts to set priorities and discuss the progress for 2026, narrow the focus of the MC to a results-oriented agenda centered on concrete bankable projects and programs, strengthen ownership and deepen the engagement of CAREC member countries and development partners.

Specifically, the SOM will discuss priority deliverables for 2026: the implementation of memoranda of understanding (MOUs) signed at the 24th MC, and key new initiatives such as the Borders Upgrades for Integration, Logistics and Development Facility, the Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility, Regional Tourism, and the Capital Markets Development Forum.

The meeting will also initiate discussions on CAREC's vision beyond 2030, leveraging the 25th anniversary as an opportunity to articulate a forward-looking agenda that responds to geopolitical shifts, climate imperatives, digital transformation, evolving trade dynamics, and emerging themes and sectors.

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AGENDA as of 10 June 2026

<b>Day 1: 11 June 2026 (Thursday)</b> Venue: Ballroom 1, Shangri-La Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Registration</b>
09:00 – 09:20	<b>Opening Session</b>  <i>Welcome Remarks</i> Ms. Davaasuren Sodnomdarjaa Deputy Minister of Economy and Development  <i>Setting the Stage</i> Ms. Leah Gutierrez Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), Asian Development Bank (ADB)
09:20 – 10:20	<b>Session 1: Scaling Up and Implementing CAREC-related Investments and Strengthening the Role of CAREC National Focal Points (NFPs)</b>  The session will report on the committed interventions under the CAREC Program since 2025 and present the key pipeline projects, including ADB's target of providing a \$10 billion investment envelope to support the CAREC Program from 2026 to 2030. Discussions will center on interventions across priority sectors and corridors, aimed at shaping strategic areas of investment that will guide CAREC's development trajectory through 2030, including connectivity, energy, digital transformation, climate resilience, and human development.  <b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Erdenetuya Darinchuluun, Director General, Trade and Economic Cooperation Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia  <b>Presenter:</b> Mr. Asad Aleem, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRD, ADB (10 minutes)  <b>Tour de Table</b> (30 minutes)  <i>Each CAREC NFP is allocated 3 minutes. The questions listed below are intended to facilitate the discussion:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>How can the CAREC Program strengthen delivery, partnerships, and financing leverage to develop a regional investment pipeline?</i></li><li><i>What are the ongoing good practices in CAREC countries that ensure alignment of country programming with CAREC regional priorities and the role of NFPs in coordinating across line ministries?</i></li><li><i>How can we facilitate and effectively translate good ideas into concrete project concepts, mobilize financing, and implement projects?</i></li></ol> <b>Responses</b> from CAREC Secretariat and/or Development Partners (20 minutes)
10:20 – 10:35	<b>Group Photo &amp; Coffee Break</b>
10:35 – 11:50	<b>Session 2: Accelerating Transport and Digital Connectivity</b>

	<p>This session will discuss the progress of the Midterm Reviews of the <i>CAREC Transport Strategy 2030</i> and the initial outcomes of the ongoing pre-feasibility study on the <i>CAREC Digital Corridor</i>, pursuant to the MOU signed in November 2025, and report on the outcomes of the latest <i>Transport Sector Coordinating Committee Meeting (TSCC)</i>.</p> <p>Discussions will focus on the priorities and plans for the <i>Borders Upgrades for Integration, Logistics and Development (BUILD) Facility</i>, and investment plans under the <i>CAREC Corridor 2 development approach</i>, the ongoing e-logistics scoping studies, and other transport and digital initiatives.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Muhammad Ehsan Khan, Director General, East Asia Department (EARD), ADB</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b>  Mr. Bayarmagnai Myagmarsuren, State Secretary, Ministry of Road and Transport, Mongolia and Mr. Chen Chen, Director (Central and West Asia, East Asia and the Pacific), Transport Sector Office, Sectors Department 1, ADB (10 min)  Mr. Antonio Zaballos, Director, Digital Sector, Sector Department 2, ADB (10 min) <i>(online)</i></p> <p><b><u>Tour de Table</u></b> (30 minutes)</p> <p><i>Each CAREC NFP is allocated 3 minutes. The questions listed below are intended to facilitate the discussion:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. How can each country contribute to and accelerate the implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects and digital/ICT initiatives (e.g., policy reforms and regulatory coherence)?</i></li> <li><i>2. What are other opportunities and mechanisms to improve transport connectivity and synergize different CAREC corridors, and how can we respond better to the evolving global uncertainties?</i></li> <li><i>3. What are the key national-level reforms needed to fully benefit from the CAREC Digital Corridor? How can we better coordinate the Digital Corridor with other partners and initiatives?</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Responses</b> from CAREC Secretariat and/or Development Partners (25 minutes)</p>
11:50 – 12:55	<p><b>Session 3: Advancing CAREC Trade and Tourism Agenda</b></p> <p>The session will review progress in implementing the <i>CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030</i>, report the outcomes of the <i>Joint Meeting of the Regional Trade Group and Customs Cooperation Committee</i>, and progress of implementation of MOUs signed at the CAREC Ministerial Conference in November 2025, including the Bishkek Declaration to launch negotiations of the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership Agreement (CARTIF), CAREC Regional Tourism, CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange (CATS/ICE), the pilot of electronic certification and mutual recognition of conformity certificates; and other priority initiatives including policy reforms (WTO accession and implementation).</p> <p>Discussions will focus on CAREC priorities in trade policy reforms, the implementation of regional tourism clusters, and the outcomes of the CAREC session at the ADB Annual Meeting in Samarkand.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Leah Gutierrez, Director General, CWRD, ADB</p>

	<p><b>Presenters:</b>  Mr. Batkhuu Idesh, State Secretary, Ministry of Economy and Development (10 minutes)  Mr. Enkhtaivan Gelegjamts, Deputy Director General, Mongolian Customs General Administration (CAREC CCC Chair) (10 minutes)</p> <p><b><u>Tour de Table</u></b> (30 minutes)</p> <p><i>Each CAREC NFP is allocated 3 minutes. The questions listed below are intended to facilitate the discussion:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>How can each country contribute to and accelerate the implementation of trade policy and facilitation initiatives, including policy coherence and regional cooperation?</i></li> <li>2. <i>What regional tourism initiatives and emerging investment areas in the tourism sector can be developed under the CAREC Program?</i></li> <li>3. <i>How can CAREC further strengthen project delivery, partnerships, and financing leverage to accelerate implementation and maximize the regional impact of the trade and tourism investment pipeline?</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Responses</b> from CAREC Secretariat and/or Development Partners (15 minutes)</p>
12:55 – 14:00	<p>Lunch  <i>Venue: Cafe Park, Shangri la Hotel</i></p>
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 4: Strengthening Energy Security, Regional Cooperation, and Private Sector Development in the Energy Sector and Critical Minerals Value Chains</b></p> <p>This session will focus on identifying country priorities, challenges, and support needs to enhance regional cooperation in the energy sector and critical minerals, and to accelerate national energy transitions across CAREC countries, and on how ADB's new Critical Minerals-to-Manufacturing Financing Partnership Facility can provide long-term support for the development of regional value chains in CAREC. The session will also identify other opportunities to deepen regional cooperation in critical minerals, energy security, and connectivity.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Aiming Zhou, Deputy Country Director, PRC Resident Mission, ADB</p> <p><b>Presenters:</b>  Mr. Serik S. Zharkinbayev, Energy Specialist, SD-1, ADB (5 min) (<i>online</i>)  Mr. Kwang Jo (KJ) Jeong, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, ADB (<i>online</i>) and Mr. Jose Carlos Edo Monfort, Senior Energy Specialist, Energy Transition – Sectors Group, ADB (10 min)</p> <p><b><u>Tour de Table</u></b> (30 minutes)</p> <p><i>Each CAREC NFP is allocated 3 minutes. The questions listed below are intended to facilitate the discussion:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Priority Needs and Constraints:</b> (i) What are your country's key priorities and challenges in strengthening energy security and advancing the energy transition?  (ii) What are your country's priority initiatives related to energy connectivity, critical</li> </ol>

	<p>minerals, or value chain development? (iii) What are the key constraints (e.g., financing, infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, cross-border coordination)?</p> <p>2. <b>Private Sector Engagement:</b> (i) What are the main barriers to attracting private sector participation in your priority areas? (ii) What specific support from ADB could help address these barriers?</p> <p>3. <b>Regional Cooperation Opportunities:</b> (i) Where do you see concrete opportunities for cross-border cooperation (e.g., shared infrastructure, trade, integrated value chains)? (ii) How can CAREC facilitate progress in these areas?</p> <p><b>Responses</b> from CAREC Secretariat and/or Development Partners (15 minutes)</p>
15:00- 16:00	<p><b>Session 5: Strengthening Development Partners’ Role in CAREC</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Erdenetuya Darinchuluun, Director General, Trade and Economic Cooperation Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development, Mongolia</p> <p>The session will provide an opportunity for CAREC countries and development partners to discuss concrete project pipelines and align financing with regional priorities. The outcomes of these sessions will lay out the groundwork for improved collaboration among development partners on projects and initiatives, including the CAREC Development Partners Forum and/or the CAREC Business Forum, as well as regional policy dialogues.</p> <p>Following the development partners session at the sideline of the 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference in November 2025, each development partner will discuss concrete proposals, their possible role in initiatives to support CAREC 2030 priorities, such as but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting working groups of select CAREC clusters, themes, and sectors</li> <li>• Co-leading sessions at the CAREC Business or Development Forums</li> <li>• Mobilizing co-financing for CAREC technical assistances and/or project preparation facilities</li> <li>• CAREC Project Dashboard and Communications</li> </ul>
16:00 – 16:15	<b>Coffee Break</b>
16:15 – 17:30	<b>Closed Door Session for National Focal Points</b>
18:00 – 20:00	<p>Dinner hosted by the Government of Mongolia  Venue: Ballroom Zu  Address: Sukhbaatar district, 1 khoroo, Olimp 5 Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia</p>
<b>Day 2, 12 June 2026 (Friday)</b> Venue: Ballroom 1, Shangri-La Hotel, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	
09:00 – 10:00	<p><b>Session 6: Financing the Future — Capital Markets, Disaster Risk Financing, Carbon Readiness, and Innovative Finance</b></p> <p>This session focuses on mobilizing finance for regional development—a key cross-cutting priority. This session will explore how CAREC can leverage innovative financing to support its investment pipeline. Discussions will include the revitalization of the Capital Markets Development Forum, expansion of regional disaster risk financing projects, the Carbon Market Readiness Plan, and the CAREC Innovation and Venture Investment Catalyst (CIVIC) Facility.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Dulguun Battulga, Director General, Securities Market Department, Financial Regulatory Commission, Mongolia</p>

	<p><b>Presenters:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Mohd Sani Mohd Ismail, Director of the Finance Sector Office, Sectors Department 3, ADB (15 minutes)</li> <li>• Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB (3 minutes), <i>(online)</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Tour de Table</u></b> (30 minutes)</p> <p><i>Each CAREC NFP is allocated 3 minutes. The questions listed below are intended to facilitate the discussion:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>What are the key barriers to developing deep and liquid capital markets in the region?</i></li> <li>2. <i>How can CAREC support countries in preparing bankable projects that attract private and institutional investment, while supporting SMEs and emerging startup ecosystems, including utilizing the CIVIC facility?</i></li> <li>3. <i>How can CAREC members collaborate to develop regional disaster risk financing solutions that enhance financial preparedness and reduce the fiscal impact of climate-related- shocks?</i></li> <li>4. <i>What role can carbon markets play in financing the region's green transition?</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Responses</b> from CAREC Secretariat and/or Development Partners (10 minutes)</p>
10:00 –11:00	<p><b>Session 7: Preparations for the CAREC Ministerial Conference — 25 Years of Partnership: Shaping the Future Together</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Leah Gutierrez, Director General, CWRD, ADB</p> <p>This session will focus on preparing concrete deliverables for the CAREC’s 25th year and vision for CAREC beyond 2030.</p> <p><b><u>Tour de Table</u></b> and Open Discussions (60 minutes)</p> <p><i>All CAREC NFPs are invited to share their insights and perspectives with emphasis on certain areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade and corridor connectivity</li> <li>• Digital and energy corridors</li> <li>• Financing and private sector development</li> <li>• New strategic sectors</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:15	<p><b>Wrap Up and Closing Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Muhammad Ehsan Khan, Director General, EARD, ADB</li> <li>• Ms. Davaasuren Sodnomdarjaa, Deputy Minister of Economy and Development, Mongolia</li> </ul>
11:15 – 12:00	<p><b>Lunch</b>  <b>Venue: Café Park, Level 1, Shangri-la</b></p>