



## **Mid-Term Review of the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030**

### **Background Note and Preliminary Assessment**

#### **FOR DISCUSSION**

Senior Officials' Meeting

Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program

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## Mid-Term Review of the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030: Background Note and Preliminary Assessment

### I. INTRODUCTION

- Given its importance for economic growth and development, trade has been a focus area of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program since its inception in 2001. In 2018, the 17th CAREC Ministerial Conference endorsed the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030, which provides a strategic framework for regional cooperation, consolidating trade policy and trade facilitation priorities, and promoting sectors, particularly, under the CAREC 2030 clusters of trade, tourism and economic corridors. CITA aims to assist CAREC countries in further integrating into the global economy through three Pillars:<sup>1</sup>

- (i) **Trade expansion from increased market access:** Promoting the adoption of more open trade policies; deepening customs cooperation; making border and behind-the-border procedures more efficient; improving logistics services; and enhancing transit systems.
- (ii) **Greater diversification:** Creating an enabling environment for economic diversification by supporting reforms, providing financing, and strengthening linkages between CAREC economies and regional and global value chains.
- (iii) **Stronger institutions for trade:** Promoting better coordination of sectoral policies and priorities, and evidence-based policymaking; enhancing the capacity of government agencies; improving data collection and cross-country analysis; strengthening officials' policy analysis and negotiation skills; and increasing the participation of think tanks and the private sector.

- The institutional mechanism for CITA implementation comprises the Regional Trade Group (RTG), the Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC), and the Regional Working Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures (SPS RWG). These bodies are to coordinate closely with one another and with other sectoral and thematic groups, and report to Senior Officials Meeting. CITA 2030 is to be implemented in a phased and pragmatic manner through 3-year Rolling Strategic Action Plans (RSAPs), prioritizing projects and initiatives under CITA's overall strategic objectives. Reviewed annually by the RTG, RSAPs provide a platform for building project pipelines, mobilizing resources, and coordinating with development partners.

1. CITA's results framework includes 11 indicators—seven at the outcome level and four at the output level. Targets for the seven outcome level indicators and the first two output-level indicators were proposed in 2019 (Appendix 1) and require RTG review.

2. The Midterm Review of the CAREC 2030 Strategy recommended to evaluate and recalibrate sector strategies such as CITA 2030, along with the CAREC Transport Strategy 2030 and CAREC Digital Strategy 2030.<sup>2</sup> The MTR of CITA 2030 aims to: (i) assess the progress of CITA 2030 implementation during the period 2018–2024 (review period); (ii) ensure the continued relevance of CITA 2030 within the evolving global and regional context; and (iii) enhance its effectiveness and efficiency in fostering sustainable development across CAREC countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Asian Development Bank (ADB). 2019. *CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 and Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2018–2020*. Manila. <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/institutional-document/490576/carec-trade-agenda-2030-action-plan-2018-2020.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> CAREC Program. 2024. *CAREC 2030 Strategy Mid-Term Review*. <https://www.carecprogram.org/uploads/CAREC-2030-Strategy-Midterm-Review-Final-MC-2024-Document-ENG.pdf>

## II. THE EVOLVING GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

3. The global and regional context has evolved significantly since the CAREC Ministerial Conference endorsed CITA 2030 in 2018. During the period from 2018 to early 2025, several major events and trends—including the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, the geopolitical dynamics, rising protectionism, accelerating climate change, and the rapid advancement of digital technologies—affected the performance, needs, and priorities of CAREC countries with respect to cross-border trade and investment.

4. The COVID-19 pandemic, which lasted from 2020 to 2023, was a major adverse shock to the world economy, including the CAREC economies. Trade in tourism-related services was among the hardest hit, reflecting the impact of international mobility restrictions. Pandemic-related measures severely disrupted cross-border trade and investment flows in the region. However, the pandemic accelerated digitalization across the region, spurring greater use of e-commerce and paperless trade. Overall, the pandemic has strengthened the case for integrating risk management, resilience, and response capacities into trade facilitation and strategies for cross-border trade and investment.

5. The geopolitical headwinds and regional dynamics—including those surrounding Afghanistan since August 2021, the prolonged Russia's war in Ukraine, and conflicts in the Red Sea and in the Middle East—have disrupted supply chains and trade routes, raised transport and logistics costs and created new challenges for cross-border trade in the CAREC region. However, the rerouting of supply chains stimulated interest and investment in alternative transport corridors, most notably CAREC Corridor 2 (coinciding with the Middle Corridor). Some countries, (e.g., Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) begin to attract new foreign investment as firms and capital flows adjusted to the geopolitical realignment. The global trade landscape, over the past decade, is also witnessing a notable rise in protectionist tendencies (most recently the unilateral tariff rate increase imposed by the United States and retaliatory measures by its trading partners). These developments increasingly undermining the multilateral, rules-based trading system anchored in the World Trade Organization (WTO), heighten uncertainty in international trade and underscore the need to diversify trade and strengthen regional cooperation to mitigate external shocks.

6. Over the past several decades, CAREC countries have experienced rising temperatures, more frequent and severe extreme weather events—such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves—and accelerated glacial melt, particularly in the mountainous areas of the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan. In 2024, Kazakhstan experienced severe flooding that affected its trade exports. Damage to transport infrastructure and disruption of supply chains due to extreme weather events increase trade costs and threaten connectivity, particularly for the landlocked CAREC countries. There is a need to invest in resilient and climate-smart infrastructure to support sustainable trade networks in the region. Moreover, climate-related trade policies in external markets—such as the EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism—may adversely affect the competitiveness of carbon-intensive exports from the region.

7. CAREC countries have taken steps to mainstream climate considerations across regional cooperation agendas. The Regional Action on Climate Change, endorsed by the CAREC Ministerial Conference in 2023, identifies trade, transit, and transport as one of seven priority areas for regional action. The Baku Declaration on CAREC Partnership for Trade, Climate, and Innovation signed at the margins of COP29, highlights the growing recognition of the trade–environment–technology nexus and calls for regionally coordinated approaches to green trade and innovation.

8. In recent years, digital technologies—including artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, blockchain, and the Internet of Things—have advanced rapidly, reshaping global trade, investment, and economic development. Digital and paperless trade solutions—such

as interoperable customs systems, e-certification, and electronic single windows—can reduce costs, increase efficiency, and enhance the resilience of supply chains. Digital platforms facilitate e-commerce, streamline logistics, and expand market access, especially for SMEs. However, realizing the benefits of digitalization requires closing persistent digital divides in connectivity, digital literacy, and access to online services. It also demands increased investment in digital infrastructure and innovation ecosystems, as well as harmonized policies to promote data flows, cybersecurity, and trusted digital services. As the region advances toward a more interconnected digital future, CITA 2030 can play a catalytic role in supporting digital trade integration and fostering innovation-led growth.

### III. PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES

9. Between 2018 to 2024, ADB approved the financing of 16 technical assistance projects (estimated at \$23.9 million) and four investment projects and programs (\$562.3 million) to support implementation of CITA 2030.<sup>3</sup> Ongoing technical assistance and investment projects approved by ADB prior to 2018 have also contributed to CITA objectives. A broad range of activities from 2018 to 2024 produced or supported significant development results (see Appendix 2).

10. Preliminary assessment and consultations with stakeholders identified issues and challenges and some proposals to improve overall CITA implementation, including but not limited to:

- The scope of CITA activities was quite broad and ambitious, reflecting the diverse needs of CAREC countries in cross-border trade. This resulted in coordination and resource allocation challenges and limited CITA's effectiveness in some activity areas. ADB's support for CITA implementation during the review period was mostly in the form of technical assistance or soft infrastructure. From 2018 to 2024, ADB approved only four investment projects and one investment program in the trade sector.
- **There is a need to consider longer-term and programmatic support for CITA implementation through investment projects** (e.g., upgrade of border crossing points and trade-related measures and systems especially at the borders). CITA activities may explore the feasibility and suitability of investment programs and policy-based loans to implement much needed reforms (e.g., adoption of national single window, implementation of WTO agreements); diversify and promote trade in services (from logistics, tourism, communications, and business services) and facilitate cross-border investments (e.g., FDI in new and green technologies and development of high-tech and green value chains) or those that accelerate digital trade.
- Most CITA indicators are outcome-level indicators, usually dependent on factors beyond the scope of CITA. **Actionable or granular indicators and specific targets are needed to effectively assess and improve CITA's effectiveness.** The indicators and targets can be drawn from the existing data sources such as the CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring mechanism, the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, and the Logistics Performance Index.
- CITA's institutional mechanism functioned reasonably well during the review period. However, there is room for improvement particularly in improving close collaboration with

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<sup>3</sup> The four investment projects are: (i) ADB. 2019. [Mongolia: Regional Improvement of Border Services Project \(Additional Financing\)](#); (ii) ADB. 2020. [PRC: Inner Mongolia Sustainable Cross-Border Development Investment Program](#); (iii) ADB. 2020. [Mongolia: Developing the Economic Cooperation Zone Project](#); and (iv) ADB. 2023. [Mongolia: Border Efficiency for Sustainable Trade Project](#).

multiple stakeholders for activities involving several countries and agencies (e.g., the CATS/ICE initiative). Convening joint meetings of the bodies under CITA and other CAREC sectoral and thematic strategies will promote a more coordinated approach. CITA may consider establishing or convening an experts' group to discuss specific topics on cross border investments, standards, and digital trade.

- **There is a need to closely align CITA implementation with other CAREC sectoral and thematic strategies**—particularly the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 and the CAREC Transport Strategy 2030—by designing and undertaking projects and activities that pursue common priorities and generate synergies.
- ADB's trade work aims to **promote alignment with international agreements and good practices in trade policies and trade facilitation measures**. This needs to be maintained and sustained to avoid duplication and create synergies with related projects and activities supported by other development partners in the region.
- There is good private sector participation, including among small and medium enterprises, logistics, and trade operators in numerous CITA activities during the review period. As the ultimate beneficiaries, **private sector engagement should be further strengthened**.

## Appendix 1: Progress on the CITA Indicators (Preliminary)

During the period 2018 to 2023, progress on the indicators for the CITA outcome—i.e., *CAREC countries are more integrated into the global economy*—was mixed. In particular, the median ratios of trade in nonfuels within CAREC and trade in fuels and nonfuels with the rest of the world to gross domestic product (GDP) rose significantly in CAREC countries (except the PRC) between 2017 and 2023. However, the ratios of trade in services and of inflows and outflows of foreign direct investment to GDP fell over the same period.

There was modest progress on the indicator for Output 1: *Trade expansion from increased market access*. The median value of the ratio of exports of goods and services to GDP for CAREC countries (except the PRC) and the corresponding ratio for the PRC both increased slightly between 2017 and 2023. By contrast, CAREC countries made substantial progress on the indicators for Output 2: *Greater diversification* and Output 3: *Stronger institutions for trade*. The median share of the top five merchandise exports in total goods exports in CAREC countries (except the PRC) declined markedly between 2017 and 2023. The corresponding indicator for the PRC also decreased, albeit more modestly. In terms of institutional development, RTG was established in 2018. Nine CAREC countries had operational national committees on trade facilitation in 2023, up from seven in 2017.<sup>4</sup>

### Value of Selected CITA Indicators, 2016 and 2023<sup>a</sup>

Results Level	Indicator	2016 <sup>b</sup>	2023
Outcome	Trade in fuels within CAREC (% of GDP)	2.38 [0.08]	2.11 [0.14]
	Trade in fuels with the rest of the world (% of GDP)	3.92 [1.73]	6.00 [3.10]
	Trade in nonfuels within CAREC (% of GDP)	7.33 [1.56]	15.73 [1.16]
	Trade in nonfuels with the rest of the world (% of GDP)	21.22 [29.44]	24.37 [28.96]
	Trade in services (% of GDP)	18.97 [5.79]	13.39 [4.90]
	Net inflows of foreign direct investment (% of GDP)	6.28 [1.56]	1.62 [0.24]
	Net outflows of foreign direct investment (% of GDP)	0.55 [1.93]	0.35 [1.04]
Output 1	Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)	33.84 [19.58]	36.78 [19.74]
Output 2	Share of the top five merchandise exports in total exports of goods (%)	68.09 [14.29]	52.98 [12.47]
Output 3	Regional Trade Group is operational	No <sup>c</sup>	Yes
	Number of CAREC countries with an operational national committee on trade facilitation	7 <sup>c</sup>	9

<sup>a</sup> Values represent median estimates for the CAREC countries (except the PRC) for which data are available. Figures for the PRC are in brackets. 2016 is the baseline year for most CITA indicators, and 2023 is the latest year for which data on most CITA indicators are available.

<sup>b</sup> Some figures in this column differ from the corresponding data in Table 2.1 due to data revisions and the exclusion of the CAREC countries for which 2023 data are unavailable.

<sup>c</sup> Value/figure is for 2017.

Source: CAREC Secretariat, Trade Map, UNCTADstat, World Development Indicators database, and CITA MTR team's computation.

<sup>4</sup> Since most CITA indicators are influenced by a wide range of factors beyond the scope of CITA, it is difficult to determine to what extent the positive changes in their values during the period 2017-2023 were attributable to CITA.

## Appendix 2: Summary of Key CITA Activities and Achievements, 2018–2024 (Preliminary)

Area/Topic	Key Activities <sup>a</sup>	Achievements <sup>b</sup>
<b>Pillar 1: Trade Expansion from Increased Market Access</b>		
WTO accession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subregional forum and knowledge-sharing events, including in partnership with the WTO (CAREC Trade Policy Forum)</li> <li>• Technical assistance to Turkmenistan in drafting its Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime.</li> <li>• A study on Uzbekistan’s foreign economic policy, WTO accession capacity-building</li> <li>• Ex-ante assessment of Azerbaijan’s WTO accession, and review of Azerbaijan legislation to see alignment with UN Laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan have made notable progress towards WTO accession</li> </ul>
TFA implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional, subregional and national workshops on TFA implementation including road maps towards full compliance</li> <li>• Assistance to several CAREC countries in establishing or upgrading their national electronic Single Windows</li> <li>• A series of workshops on AEO schemes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By end-2024, most CAREC countries had established electronic Single Windows in various forms, and six CAREC countries (Azerbaijan, the PRC, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan) had instituted AEO programs.</li> <li>• As of 25 May 2025, five of the eight CAREC countries that are WTO members (Georgia, the PRC, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Tajikistan) had fulfilled all their commitments under the TFA.</li> </ul>
Customs modernization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops, seminars, and study tours on topics such as the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures (the Revised Kyoto Convention), risk management in customs administration, and Green Customs.</li> <li>• Assistance to Uzbekistan in implementing the Roadmap on Customs Information and Communication Technology Development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 2021, all CAREC countries had ratified the Revised Kyoto Convention.</li> <li>• By end-2024, most CAREC countries had established automated customs systems, introduced risk management in customs administration, and instituted electronic submission of customs declarations.</li> <li>• Between 2017 and 2023, many CAREC countries recorded improvements in their Customs score in the World Bank’s LPI.</li> </ul>
Modernization of SPS measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of CAREC countries’ national SPS Working Groups</li> <li>• Support for the formulation of CAREC countries’ strategies and action plans to enhance the national SPS systems, in pursuit of the Common Agenda for the Modernization of SPS Measures for Trade (CAST).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAREC countries have made considerable headway in aligning their national SPS standards and regulations with international standards.</li> <li>• Many CAREC countries have upgraded their SPS laboratories.</li> <li>• As of 25 May 2025, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan have introduced e-Phytos and begun exchanging them with over 100 other countries through the web-based system</li> </ul>

Area/Topic	Key Activities <sup>a</sup>	Achievements <sup>b</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment project in Mongolia for its Regional Upgrades of SPS Measures for Trade (MUST)</li> <li>• Assistance in strengthening essential elements of the national SPS systems, including SPS legislation to align with international standards under the International Plant Protection Convention, World Organization for Animal Health, and Codex Alimentarius; food safety management; pest risk analysis and surveillance; prevention and control of animal diseases; SPS laboratories</li> <li>• Support for the integration of SPS inspection with Customs functions in Mongolia; risk-based inspection in SPS border control.</li> <li>• Support for the adoption of electronic phytosanitary certificates and integration into ePhyto Solution, a global platform for the exchange of ePhytos</li> </ul>	<p>established by the IPPC. The PRC, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz Republic were testing the system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 2018 and 2023, most CAREC countries recorded improvements in their Agricultural Trade Facilitation scores based on the results of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.</li> </ul>
Modernization of BCPs and border management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS) to upgrade facilities, equipment, and information systems at key BCPs in the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, and Tajikistan.</li> <li>• Harmonization and electronic exchange of manifest for joint customs control at the Zamyn Uud (Mongolia)–Erenhot (PRC) border</li> <li>• Investment project in Mongolia to upgrade selected BCPs</li> <li>• Assistance to Azerbaijan and Georgia in designing a common BCP with joint controls</li> <li>• Scoping study for Tajikistan [Fotehobod] – Uzbekistan [Oybek] BCP</li> <li>• Promotion of electronic queue management and risk-based controls at BCPs and coordinated/integrated border management, including through the One Health mechanism.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan, all or most border controls have been delegated to the customs authorities.</li> <li>• Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan have established electronic queue management for vehicles at BCPs.</li> <li>• The PRC and Mongolia have introduced electronic unified manifest under the joint customs control.</li> <li>• By end-2024, Pakistan had mostly completed the establishment of the Integrated Transit Trade Management System at the Chaman and Torkham BCPs.</li> <li>• According to the results of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, institutional arrangements and cooperation for trade facilitation improved in many CAREC countries between 2018 and 2023.</li> </ul>
Customs transit facilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a regional electronic customs transit system known as CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange (CATS/ICE).</li> <li>• A study on transit trade facilitation in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.</li> <li>• Jointly with UNESCAP – 2022 and 2024 Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum in Singapore and Samarkand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan signed an MoU to pilot-test CATS/ testing of virtual transit scenarios, the prototype is being enhanced based on updated user requirements. Turkmenistan participated as an observer.</li> <li>• Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and several other CAREC countries implemented transit trade facilitation</li> </ul>

Area/Topic	Key Activities <sup>a</sup>	Achievements <sup>b</sup>
		<p>measures that are consistent with the CAREC study's recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 2018 and 2023, most CAREC countries showed improvements in their Transit Trade Facilitation scores based on the results of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar 2: Greater Diversification</b>		
Development of e-commerce and digital trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAREC Digital Trade Forums</li> <li>Support for the establishment or upgrading of electronic Single Windows; introduction of electronic trade documents; creation of legal and regulatory frameworks enabling e-commerce and digital trade; and the improvement of digital connectivity.</li> <li>Studies and seminar on legal, regulatory and infrastructure aspects of developing e-commerce in the CAREC region.</li> <li>Technical assistance to the PRC and Georgia in adopting the Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records.</li> <li>Assistance to Mongolia in digitalizing certificates of origin using the blockchain technology, and piloting Robotic Process Automation in Georgia's customs declaration processes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of 25 May 2025, seven CAREC countries (Azerbaijan, the PRC, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) had acceded to the UN Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific.</li> <li>Three CAREC countries (Azerbaijan, the PRC, and Mongolia) had acceded to the UN Convention on the Use of Electronic Communications in International Contracts.</li> <li>According to the results of the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation, CAREC countries made considerable progress in facilitating paperless trade between 2018 and 2023.</li> </ul>
Expansion of trade in services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A study and seminar on developing the services sector for economic diversification in CAREC countries.</li> <li>Capacity building workshops on tourism, including a study on visa policies of CAREC countries and support for the Tourism Satellite Account projects in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PRC established a negative list management model for cross-border trade in services nationwide in 2024.</li> <li>Many CAREC countries have eased visa requirements for international tourists. In several CAREC countries (including the PRC, Georgia, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan) international tourism receipts increased between 2018 and 2024 (despite the sharp declines in 2020).</li> </ul>
Development of economic corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Workshops on economic corridor development.</li> <li>Technical assistance aimed at developing the Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor and the Shymkent-Tashkent-Khujand Economic Corridor.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During the period 2023-2024, ADB approved financing for the preparation of the ABEC RIBS Project and for the Issyk-Kul Environmental Management and Sustainable Tourism Development Project.</li> </ul>
Development of special economic zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment projects for the development of an economic cooperation zone in Mongolia near the border with the PRC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have each allocated 50 hectares of land for the ICIC and agreed on a roadmap for ICIC development.</li> </ul>

Area/Topic	Key Activities <sup>a</sup>	Achievements <sup>b</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A forum on developing sustainable economic zones in CAREC countries.</li> <li>• A prefeasibility study of the International Center for Industrial Cooperation on the border of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uzbekistan has given its part of the ICIC the status of a free economic zone.</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar 3: Stronger Institutions for Trade</b>		
CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measurement and monitoring of the performance of the CAREC corridors as conduits for international trade.</li> <li>• Establishment of an interactive online CPMM database.</li> <li>• Publication of annual CPMM reports and other CAREC knowledge products based on CPMM data.</li> <li>• A review of CPMM and implementation of the enhanced CPMM methodology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A large quantity of data on transport times and costs for international shipments along the CAREC corridors has been produced and is available to the public.</li> <li>• The CPMM data has been used in numerous research projects and publications outside the CAREC Program.</li> </ul>
Engagement with the private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for and collaboration with the CAREC Federation of Carriers and Forwarders Associations (CFCFA), an instrument for public-private partnership for the development of logistics service in the region</li> <li>• Support for the development of standards on logistics and supply chain management, through gap analysis, a manual on trade logistics practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National associations in Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan adopted some of the standards on logistics and supply chain management</li> </ul>
Capacity building for designing, negotiating, and implementing FTAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A study on the theoretical and operational aspects of FTAs.</li> <li>• Capacity-building and analysis of good practice FTAs.</li> <li>• Development of the concept of the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation (CARTIF) Partnership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several bilateral FTA signed by CAREC member countries</li> </ul>
Knowledge products (non- exhaustive list, to be completed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade Information Portal</li> <li>• Developing the Services Sector for Economic Diversification in CAREC Countries (December 2021)</li> <li>• E-Commerce in CAREC Countries: Infrastructure Development (March 2022); E-Commerce in CAREC Countries: Laws and Policies (August 2021)</li> <li>• Module on Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS) project development and implementation lessons on the CAREC Institute's e-Learning Platform; assessment of RIBS for collaborative border management and single window</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and analyses were made available to aid in planning, prioritizing, or policy making.</li> <li>• Technical and procedural capacities were enhanced.</li> </ul>

Area/Topic	Key Activities <sup>a</sup>	Achievements <sup>b</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanding Agri-Trade in Central Asia through the Use of Electronic Certificates (ADB Brief No. 184, July 2021); toolkit for assessing plant health legislation; procedural manual for food imports; model for risk categorization</li> <li>Transit Trade Facilitation in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan (December 2024)</li> </ul>	
Establishment of trade sector bodies and coordination with development partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of the RTG</li> <li>Establishment of the SPS RWG, the SPS policy coordinating body in CAREC</li> <li>Regular meetings of RTG, CCC, SPS RWG, joint meetings</li> <li>Coordination with development partners working in the region, e.g. CI, WTO, UNESCAP, UNCTAD, UNCITRAL, ITC, GIZ, former USAID, KCS</li> </ul>	<p>Institutional coordination among stakeholders within countries and the region contributes to efficiency.</p> <p>Cooperation with the organization of the trade sector bodies that identified priorities, developed work plans, oversaw activities and assessed performance. Frequent interaction nurtured goodwill and mutual understanding.</p>

ADB = Asian Development Bank, AEO = Authorized Economic Operator, BCP = border crossing point, CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, CCC = Customs Cooperation Committee; CITA = CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda, CATS/ICE = CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange, CPMM = Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring, e-Phytos = electronic phytosanitary certificate, FTA = free trade agreement, IPPC = International Plant Protection Convention, LPI = Logistics Performance Index, MoU = Memorandum of Understanding, PRC = People's Republic of China, RTG = Regional Trade Group; RWG = Regional Working Group; SPS = sanitary and phytosanitary, TFA = Trade Facilitation Agreement, UN = United Nations, WTO = World Trade Organization.

<sup>a</sup> Include CITA-related activities undertaken during the review period under ADB projects approved prior to 2018.

<sup>b</sup> Include achievements to which CITA may have contributed only partially.

Source: CITA MTR team.