



# CAREC GENDER STRATEGY

2030

Senior Officials' Meeting  
20 October 2020





## CAREC Gender Strategy 2030

### 1. Overview of strategy

### 2. Highlights of country consultations

### 3. Next steps

#### 1. Introduction

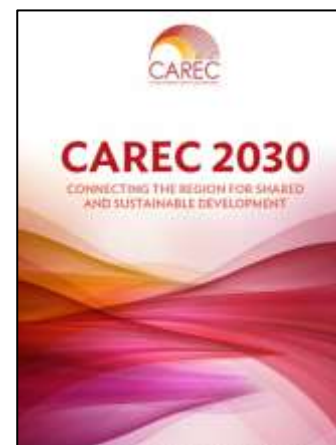
2. Rationale and purpose

3. Approach and framework

4. Mainstreaming gender in CAREC operations: Key entry points

5. Institutional arrangements and results framework

- Gender mainstreaming is a **cross-cutting theme** under CAREC 2030.
- **CAREC Gender Strategy 2030 will complement CAREC 2030**, and national efforts and strategies in gender mainstreaming.
- It draws on findings and insights from **CAREC Gender Assessment**.





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#### Rationale

- CAREC countries have **common challenges and bottlenecks**.
- **Mutual learning** to strengthen national approaches on gender mainstreaming.
- **Opportunities have been missed** to effectively mainstream gender across regional projects.
- Regional support under CAREC can **add value to national gender programs**.
- All **CAREC countries and development partners are committed** to advancing gender equality and women empowerment.
- **COVID-19 has exacerbated existing inequalities** for women in CAREC countries and progress made could see a setback.



#### Purpose

- To **increase the potential and capacity of women to benefit equally** from CAREC investments and interventions.
- To **enable equal access to any opportunities** created through the regional cooperation mechanism.



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#### Vision

*“Inclusion, Empowerment and Resilience for all”*

#### Mission

*“Equality and empowerment of women and girls in all CAREC operations for inclusive, shared and sustainable development”*

#### Objectives

1. Promote women’s **access to economic opportunities**.
2. Contribute to women’s **social empowerment**.
3. Support women’s **regional networks and policy reform** for women’s empowerment.
4. Enhance women’s **access to information** and communication technology.



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- **Key gender issues** and **strategic entry points for each operational cluster**, which will be adapted for each country due to the socio-economic and cultural diversity of the CAREC region.
- CAREC Gender Strategy will be **implemented through CAREC specific sector strategies.**



**Economic and Financial Stability**



**Trade, Tourism, and Economic Corridors**



**Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity**



**Agriculture and Water**



**Human Development**



**ICT integration**

#### Gender issues, such as

- Limited access to decent work, economic opportunities, education and training, health services, ICTs, infrastructure and public services.
- Low participation in decision-making processes.

#### Entry points to

- Ensure equal access to opportunities.
- Promote gender-responsive policy dialogue at regional and cross-country levels.
- Enhance knowledge and best practices sharing and capacity building



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#### Enhanced collaboration

- CAREC member countries.
- Development Partners.
- CAREC Institute.

#### Regional Gender Expert Group

- Coordinated by CAREC Secretariat.
- 11 CAREC countries represented.
- It will convene once a year.

#### Monitoring and evaluation mechanism: Gender Results Framework (RF)

- Sector strategies to be integrated into RF to develop concrete cluster specific gender indicators.
- Progress report will be prepared by CAREC Secretariat every 3 years.



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- The 11 CAREC countries **fully supported** the CAREC Gender Strategy 2030, which is aligned with national strategies and plans.
- **Socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on women** should be reflected in the strategy.
- **Strategic directions** that should be strengthened:
  - Promote use of ICTs and digital technologies; and e-commerce by women.
  - Ensure women's access to reproductive health services.
  - Support female entrepreneurs.
  - Make more emphasis on advocacy work to achieve gender equality.
- On the **strategy implementation**:
  - Knowledge and best practices sharing, capacity building and policy dialogue were recognized as effective implementation mechanisms.
  - Governments should be the driving force, and cooperation between central and local women's agencies should be ensured.
  - Terms of reference for the proposed Regional Gender Expert Group should be jointly developed by the CAREC Secretariat and the member countries.





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