



**Statement by Mr. Sanzharbek Bolotov  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Commerce and  
CAREC National Focal Point for the Kyrgyz Republic  
23rd Ministerial Conference  
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program  
7-8 November 2024, Astana**

Dear Mr. Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Olzhas Abayevich!

Dear Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nurlan Serikovich!

Dear President of ADB, Mr. Asakawa,

Dear representatives of development partners!

Dear participants of the Ministerial Conference!

First of all, let me greet everyone and, on behalf of the Kyrgyz delegation, express gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the leadership of ADB, the CAREC Secretariat for the tremendous work in preparing and holding this conference, for the warm welcome and hospitality.

We highly appreciate the partnership carried out within the framework of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programs.

The results that the regional economic association has achieved for more than 20 years of activity are very tangible for each of the participating countries.

First of all, the mobilization of financial resources for the creation of multimodal transport networks, the facilitation of trade and energy security, as well as the development of economic corridors is impressive.

All this made it possible to strengthen the economic indicators of the partner countries.

In particular, over the past three years (2021-2023), the volume of mutual and foreign trade of the Kyrgyz Republic with CAREC countries has increased by 2.4 times.

In the structure of the Kyrgyz Republic's foreign trade, the share of CAREC countries last year amounted to 47.9%.

Kyrgyzstan's trade turnover with CAREC countries for this incomplete year amounted to more than \$5.5 billion. and compared to the same period in 2023, it increased by 21.0%.

These indicators clearly demonstrate the positive dynamics of mutual economic cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and CAREC countries, and once again confirm the effectiveness of CAREC software products.

Let me inform you that Kyrgyzstan sets ambitious goals until 2030. The main task will be to achieve gross domestic product (GDP) in the amount of 30 billion US dollars by 2030, and GDP per capita up to 4.0-4.5 thousand dollars and become one of the countries with an upper middle income. The Kyrgyz Republic aims to become one of the top 30 countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Industry. To this end, the development of a draft National Development Document of the Kyrgyz Republic until 2030 has begun, within the framework of which we will transition to a new development model. At the same time, we recognize the need for close cooperation with development partners and countries in the CAREC region to achieve the intended results.

### **1) CAREC Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2027.**

The issues addressed at the CAREC Ministerial Conference are not unique to the region and resonate with global challenges facing the global community, in particular climate change.

For example, in Kyrgyzstan, at the initiative of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, efforts are being made to promote sustainable mountain development, protect mountain ecosystems, and appropriate measures are being taken to combat climate change, both domestically and internationally.

Thus, in order to implement the UN resolution "Sustainable Mountain Development", the President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov signed the Decree "On declaring the period 2023-2027 in the Kyrgyz Republic the Fifth Anniversary of Actions for the Development of Mountain Regions" and the corresponding national roadmap is being implemented.

As part of the mountain initiative, Kyrgyzstan plans to hold the second Bishkek Global Mountain Summit by 2027.

In addition, as part of the fight against climate change in the Kyrgyz Republic, the project "Development of low-carbon intercity electric bus service and solar charging infrastructure in the Kyrgyz Republic" was initiated.

The purpose of initiating this project is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere and improve the conditions for the transportation of passengers on intercity routes.

For the implementation of the project "Reconstruction of the Issyk-Kul Ring Road", it was decided to use fully electric dump trucks as a pilot and experimental project in the performance of work, without any CO2 emissions into the atmosphere.

Using the above examples, I would like to emphasize that Kyrgyzstan is actively acting and promoting mountain initiatives to preserve water, glaciers and climate in the interests of the entire region."

We understand that the solution of this issue requires an integrated approach, the issues of climate change, environmental protection and green economy are among the main priorities of state policy.

With this in mind, the Kyrgyz side supports the adoption of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan and the presentation of CAREC initiatives at the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29).

## **2) CAREC 2030 Mid-Term Review and Recommendations**

Regarding the CAREC 2030 Mid-term Review (MTR), we support its conclusions and recommendations.

The MTR recommendations are very relevant, especially when it is necessary to revise sectoral strategies: transport, energy, digital, integrated trade.

Of course, we welcome the inclusion of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway project in the list of CAREC flagship infrastructure projects.

The role of the future railway in servicing regional and transcontinental flows cannot be overestimated.

I will not dwell on all the benefits of this project, as it was already discussed in detail at the plenary session yesterday.

But nevertheless, the new railway corridor will become the southern branch of the continental bridge of Eurasia and will open access to the markets of Southeast and West Asia and the Middle East.

The project will increase competitiveness in the international transit market by reducing the distance and time of delivery of goods.

According to preliminary forecasts, the shortening of the route from East Asia to the countries of the Middle East and Southern Europe will be about 900 km, and the time will be reduced by 7-8 days. This will affect the price of transported goods, inevitably increasing demand for them.

Among other things, the development of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway will make it possible to mitigate the risks in international economic relations associated with political instability, both in Europe and in the Middle East.

I cannot fail to mention the Kambarata HPP-1 project, which is also on the list of flagship projects of the Mid-term Review, and is a regional project that can strengthen energy security, improve water and energy management, and facilitate the energy transition in the region.

Also, taking this opportunity, considering other CAREC projects, I would like to note that the Kyrgyz Republic supports the implementation of regional projects to create a Green Energy Corridor, as well as the development of digital infrastructure through the interconnection of fiber-optic communication lines (FOCL) across the Caspian Sea.

The Kyrgyz Republic is interested and ready to take part in these initiatives.

All the above-mentioned projects will complement each other and thus contribute to strengthening economic cooperation in the region.

In conclusion, it is impossible to overestimate the expansion of comprehensive cooperation between our countries, with the active support of the CAREC Program, which will contribute to the prosperity of the region.

And in this regard, to express gratitude to ADB for supporting the efforts of countries in the transition to sustainable economic development and express confidence in further fruitful, effective and mutually beneficial regional cooperation.

Let me also once again express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Kazakhstan for the excellent organization of the 23rd Ministerial Conference.

At the same time, I would like to separately wish success to the Government of Azerbaijan in holding the most important event - COP 29.

I wish all participants and partners success and prosperity.

Thank you for your attention!