



**Statement by Mr. Babanyyaz Yalakov
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy, Turkmenistan
23rd Ministerial Conference
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
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Dear Chair and Co-Chairs!

Dear President of the Asian Development Bank!

Distinguished Ministers of CAREC countries!

Distinguished participants of the 23rd CAREC Ministerial Conference!

Let me sincerely welcome you all and wish you good health and fruitful work.

On behalf of Turkmenistan and the Turkmen delegation, I would like to thank the **Republic of Kazakhstan**, as the **chairing country**, for its warm welcome, hospitality, active chairing process this year, and for its important contribution to the development of regional cooperation.

To all CAREC countries, I would like to express my appreciation for the constructive and productive work done on the relevant and important documents submitted for endorsement. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Asian Development Bank, the CAREC Secretariat, and Development Partners for their continued engagement.

The CAREC Program documents presented today meet the challenges of our time and the long-term objectives facing our countries.

1. Turkmenistan supports the CAREC Action Plan on Climate Change for 2025-2027.

It is encouraged to note that the CAREC Climate Change Vision endorsed at the Ministerial Conference last year, in which CAREC countries outlined three common goals in implementing their climate vision – namely, climate change mitigation, adaptation to climate change, and trans-boundary cooperation – to have moved toward practical implementation.

The agreement signed today on the CAREC Climate and Sustainable Development Project Preparation Facility will provide a solid framework to support regional climate and sustainable development projects. What matters is the fund will help attract investment not only from standard

partner multilateral and bilateral agencies, but also from numerous private, institutional, commercial, and philanthropic sources.

It is highly relevant that the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan takes into account countries' national adaptation priorities as well as targets for nationally determined contributions (NDCs). Turkmenistan will actively participate in all its four thematic areas.

As an important step in adopting a strategic approach to environmental challenges in Central Asia, at the Plenary Sessions of the 78th and 79th sessions of the UN General Assembly, Turkmenistan delivered a concrete proposal to establish a specialized structure in Ashgabat – the Regional Centre for Climate Change Technologies in Central Asia, which would work on climate issues in a substantive and systematic manner.

Turkmenistan calls on the CAREC Program countries and development partners to engage in a constructive dialogue on the implementation of this initiative.

Recognizing the importance of coordination and efforts of CAREC countries in strengthening economic, social, and environmental cooperation, Turkmenistan is ready to support the Baku Declaration on the CAREC Climate, Innovation, and Trade Partnership.

Enhanced climate cooperation should be a cornerstone of CAREC Program development.

2. I would also like to note that Turkmenistan supports the key recommendations outlined in the Midterm Review of the CAREC 2030 Strategy.

The midterm review of the Strategy allowed us to analyze the results achieved, and based on the proposed recommendations, to adjust the chosen course and improve our tools, norms, and approaches for timely implementation of projects and initiatives.

The Midterm Review of the Strategy concluded that CAREC Strategy 2030 remains topical and relevant in terms of strategic directions to address the current development challenges of the transforming CAREC region.

The first seven key recommendations are aimed at strengthening the CAREC Program's operations, as well as our ability to respond to the changing economic environment. The other three recommendations are aimed at improving the capacity and effectiveness of the implementation of the MTR recommendations, which will provide the impetus to accelerate the implementation of earlier taken decisions. This will undoubtedly help set the wheels in motion a process that would enhance the effectiveness, relevance, and responsiveness of CAREC Strategy 2030, and facilitate deeper cooperation and integration in the CAREC region.

3. Turkmenistan supports the Joint Ministerial Statement for the 23rd Ministerial Conference including the CAREC Joint Statement on Regional Tourism Development.

Dear Chairman!

Dear Heads and members of delegations, ladies and gentlemen!

From our end, Turkmenistan is ready for joint work aimed at intensifying cooperation with both the countries of the region and development partners and achieving practical results.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the formation of regional initiatives on climate change will open up new opportunities for all of us on the way to green, sustainable and inclusive recovery, and strengthen our economic potential to address possible risks.

Once again, let me thank everyone for your active engagement, and the CAREC Secretariat for a job well done.

Thank you for your attention.