



**Statement of Mr. Khurram Teshabaev , Deputy Minister, Ministry of Investment, Industry  
and Trade, and CAREC National Focal Point for Uzbekistan  
23rd Ministerial Conference  
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program  
7-8 November 2024, Astana**

Dear Mr. Bektenov,

Dear Mr. Asakawa,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

I would like to join in the words of gratitude to Kazakhstan, ADB management, heads of ADB Departments, CAREC Secretariat for the excellent organization of the conference and the warm welcome in Astana.

The interventions from the Heads of Delegations confirm the importance of holding meetings under auspices of the CAREC Program to discuss further deepening of our multifaceted cooperation.

Dear conference participants!

Assessing the implementation of the CAREC Strategy, we should note the significant progress that has been achieved in almost all areas of cooperation. For example, in Uzbekistan's foreign trade turnover, the share of CAREC member countries reached 34.4% (\$21.52 billion) in 2023.

In 2023-2024, Uzbekistan signed a package of new investment, and trade and economic agreements with the CAREC member countries. The total number of enterprises established in Uzbekistan by CAREC member countries reached 4123 (29% of enterprises with foreign capital in the country).

We intend to actively continue strengthening of our partnerships and taking advantage of the opportunities that arise under the Program.

This primarily aims to support national programs of participating countries aimed at reducing poverty, narrowing the technological gap and modernizing infrastructure.

We are also interested in expanding cooperation in areas such as the digital economy, green development, energy and seamless e-commerce.

We look forward to working closely with our CAREC partners for better transport connectivity.

We will focus on issues such as food and energy security, and implications of climate change.

We find reasonable to concentrate our efforts in developing the regional trade, leveraging the competitive advantages of the CAREC countries, and building a platform for the common CAREC market.

Secondly, to enhance the consistent provision of assistance for the gradual modernization of industries, and facilitate high-tech and digitalization in key sectors.

Thirdly, we consider it necessary to commit more resources on training and retraining programs for qualified specialists in demand on the international market.

Uzbekistan supports the CAREC 2030 Midterm Review and the recommendations for the Program development, and highly appreciates the relevance of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan. However, we need to once again carefully consider the mechanism and key indicators of the Action plan, taking into account the specifics of each economy.

We consider it possible to support the proposal to prepare the concept of the CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund.

We agree with the proposal to reform the CAREC Institute based on its legal and financial foundations.

Dear conference participants!

In conclusion, I would like to thank Kazakhstan for the tremendous work during the CAREC presidency and wish the Kyrgyz Republic, the presiding Party, the ADB departments involved, our cooperation partners and the CAREC Secretariat successful work in 2025.

Thank you for your attention.