

7th TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING ON CAREC ADVANCED TRANSIT SYSTEM AND INFORMATION COMMON EXCHANGE (CATS/ICE) PILOT PHASE IMPLEMENTATION

19-20 May 2026, Tbilisi, Georgia



Regional transit development remains a key priority for CAREC Trade, particularly for landlocked CAREC countries. Under TA0069, efforts are underway to assist participating countries in advancing the CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and Information Common Exchange (ICE) toward full regional operationalization. CATS/ICE is a harmonized electronic system for managing the movement of goods in transit across CAREC countries. It enables the secure and streamlined exchange of transit data through a single platform and supports a comprehensive regional transit guarantee mechanism, where national legislation permits.

Building on positive progress achieved across participating countries and growing interest from new CAREC member countries, the 7th TWG Meeting in Tbilisi brings together existing and new participating countries to review progress, discuss system developments, and advance the legal and institutional frameworks necessary for the system's launch. The Multi-Country Framework Agreement (MCFA) continues to advance through national review processes, marking a major milestone toward full regional implementation.

OBJECTIVES

The 7th Technical Working Group Meeting aims to:

- 1) Welcome new participating countries and provide a comprehensive overview of the CATS/ICE initiative for all participants.
- 2) Review progress to date and present the roadmap toward 2030 and planning for 2026.
- 3) Present the status of the Multi-Country Framework Agreement (MCFA) and address comments received from countries.
- 4) Update participants on the development of Procedural Manuals, Training Materials, and future restructuring of System Specifications.
- 5) Present the status of Version 3 specification preparation and software development, including Version 4 plans.

PARTICIPANTS

Members of the three working groups (from existing and new participating countries), namely: (i) Information and Technology (IT), (ii) Customs Control Facilitation, and (iii) Legal and Regulatory.

AGENDA

DAY 1	19 May 2026, Tuesday
08:30–09:00 (30 mins) <i>Tbilisi Time</i>	Registration
09:00–09:45 (45 mins)	Opening Session Welcoming remarks and introductions from all participating countries (existing and new) — 5 minutes each.

DAY 1	19 May 2026, Tuesday
	<p>Mr. Anders Petersson, Country Operations Head, Georgia Resident Mission, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank</p> <p>Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank</p>
09:45–10:15 (30 mins)	Group photo and coffee break
10:15–11:00 (45 mins)	<p>Session 1: Overview of Progress to Date</p> <p>Presenter: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB Mr. Aivaras Pigaga, Customs and Transit Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (15 minutes)</p> <p>Updates from Countries Representatives from Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan (5 minutes each)</p> <p>Open Discussion (15 minutes)</p>
11:00–11:45 (45 mins)	<p>Session 2: Overview of the Roadmap to 2030 and 2026 Planning</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Aivaras Pigaga, Customs and Transit Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (30 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (15 minutes)</p>
11:45–12:30 (45 mins)	<p>Session 3: Progress and Structure of the Multi-Country Framework Agreement (MCFA)</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Tobias Dolle, Legal Expert (Trade and Customs), ADB Consultant (30 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (15 minutes)</p>
12:30–13:30 (60 mins)	Lunch
13:30–14:15 (45 mins)	<p>Session 4: Development of Procedural Manuals, Training Materials, and Future Restructuring of System Specifications</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Aivaras Pigaga, Customs and Transit Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant (30 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (15 minutes)</p>
14:15–15:00 (45 mins)	<p>Session 5: Current Status of CATS Software Development</p> <p>Presenters: Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant, GUUD System Design/ICT Expert, and Ms. Elaine Pak, ICT Specialist, ADB Consultant (30 minutes)</p> <p>Open Discussion (15 minutes)</p>
15:00–15:15 (15 mins)	Coffee break



DAY 1	19 May 2026, Tuesday
15:15–16:15 (60 mins)	<p>Wrap-up of Day 1 and General Q&A</p> <p>Summary of key points and open floor for questions.</p> <p>Facilitator: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</p>
DAY 2	20 May 2026, Wednesday
08:30–09:00 (30 mins)	Registration
09:00–09:15 (15 mins)	<p>Recap of Day 1 and Plenary Session Overview</p> <p>Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB</p>
09:15–10:15 (60 mins, including coffee break)	<p>Session 6: Presentation and Discussion on MCFA Comments from Countries</p> <p>Presentation of comments received on the MCFA from countries and proposed solutions.</p> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Tobias Dolle, Legal Expert, with support from Mr. Aivaras Pigaga, Customs and Transit Facilitation Specialist</p>
10:15–10:30	Coffee Break
10:30–11:30 (60 mins)	<p>Session 7: Plenary --- Other topics for discussion for each working group</p> <p>Continued discussion of remaining MCFA comments and related matters.</p> <p>Presenters: Mr. Aivaras Pigaga, Customs and Transit Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant Mr. Tobias Dolle, Legal Expert, ADB Consultant Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant, GUUD System Design/ICT Expert, ADB Consultant</p>
11:30–13:00 (90 mins)	Lunch
13:10–14:00 (60 mins)	<p>Closing Session: Summary, Conclusions, and Closing</p> <p>Summary of outcomes from all sessions and working groups, key conclusions, agreed next steps, and closing remarks.</p> <p>Facilitators: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRD, ADB; Mr. Aivaras Pigaga, Customs and Transit Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant Mr. Tobias Dolle, Legal Expert, ADB Consultant Mr. Viboon Chaojirapant, GUUD System Design/ICT Expert, ADB Consultant</p>
14:00 onwards	Bilateral Meetings (as needed)
15:00 onwards	Updates on CATS Pilot Progress with Private Sector