



**Regional Consultation Meeting with CAREC Trade Focals on
CAREC Trade & Investment Facilitation (CARTIF)
Virtual
14 March 2025**

Concept Note and Agenda

Background

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recognizes the significance of establishing the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership (CARTIF). This initiative demands a thorough and meticulously organized approach. The project is structured into three critical phases, each encompassing specific activities designed to achieve the overarching objective of creating a robust trade and investment partnership framework within the CAREC region.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) aims to foster discussions among CAREC countries by providing documents with international expertise and encouraging engagement. This involves the active participation of senior officials and experts from CAREC countries in organized discussions.

The representatives from the CAREC countries who attended the workshop in Istanbul in June 2024 agreed to examine the feasibility of the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership (CARTIF). They also endorsed, in principle, the methodology for developing CARTIF. Since that time, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has prepared and distributed the CARTIF Concept Note to the member countries of CAREC.

In this context, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will be hosting an online Consultation Meeting with CAREC trade focal points from 2:00PM to 4:00PM Manila time on 14 March 2025. This meeting will form part of a structured dialogue.

The objectives of the consultation meeting are:

- Presenting an overview and discussing the complete draft of the CARTIF Concept;
- Reviewing and analyzing feedback provided by CAREC countries after their national review processes;
- Indicating interest of CAREC countries in participating in the CARTIF chapters and initiating further discussions on the CARTIF text.

The objective of the meeting is also to move to the next step, which is the development of a draft text of CARTIF by the international experts based on the agreed concept.

Participants:

CAREC Trade and FTA Focals, international experts, ADB staff and consultants.

Link for joining the consultation meeting (by ZOOM):

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://adb-org.zoom.us/j/93314687916?pwd=HPFPMY0errPRfMW5BGL7o9bhAVzFd2.1>

Meeting ID: 933 1468 7916

Passcode: T3RHAb2X

Consultation Meeting Agenda

14 March 2025

14:00-16:00 Manila time

Moderator: Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank

Time (Manila)	Session
13:30 - 14:00	<i>Signing up, checking audio and video connection</i>
14:00 - 14:05	Welcome Zulfia Karimova, ADB
14:05 - 14:10	Group Photo
14:10 - 14:30	Session 1: Overview of the CARTIF Concept and Analysis of Feedback from CAREC Member Countries <i>The session will provide the overview of the CARTIF Concept prepared by the team of international consultants.</i> <i>Speaker: Mikheil Janelidze, Team Leader, PMCG</i> <i>Moderator: Zulfia Karimova, ADB</i>
14:30 - 15:30	Session 2: CAREC Country Statements <i>Each CAREC member state is requested to review and provide feedback on the proposed CARTIF chapters. Additionally, member states should indicate their interest in participating in the CARTIF chapters and initiating further discussions on the CARTIF text.</i> <i>Speakers: CAREC Trade Focals (5 min per CAREC Country)</i> <i>Moderator: Pramila Crivelli, Economist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, Economic Research and Development Impact Department, ADB</i>
15:30 – 15:50	Session 3: Discussion on the Potential CARTIF Partnership <i>Moderator: Mikheil Janelidze, Team Leader, PMCG</i>

15:50 – 16:00

Session 4: Next Steps and Concluding Remarks

This session will outline the next steps for developing the CARTIF document.

*Speakers: **Mikheil Janelidze**, Team Leader, PMCG*

***Zulfia Karimova**, ADB*