



## **JOINT MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **For Ministers' Endorsement**

24<sup>th</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference

20 November 2025



**24th Ministerial Conference  
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program  
20 November 2025, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**

**Joint Ministerial Statement**

***Green and Digital CAREC***

*We, the Ministers representing the Governments of Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of China, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, adopt the following statement at the conclusion of the 24th Ministerial Conference of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program, in Bishkek, on 20 November 2025.*

1. We **commend** the CAREC Program's continued efforts in advancing regional cooperation through strategic investments, policy dialogue, and knowledge sharing across sectors. Despite geopolitical uncertainties, inflationary pressures, and climate-related risks, the steady growth across most CAREC economies underscores the region's resilience. Green and digital regional solutions hold transformative potential for shaping a more sustainable and interconnected future. By leveraging innovation, technology, and environmentally sound practices, CAREC can address emerging challenges more effectively and unlock new opportunities for inclusive growth, climate resilience, and shared prosperity.
  
2. We **welcome** the early progress made in the Rolling Implementation Action Plan of the CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review, which provides a clear and actionable roadmap to enhance the Program's relevance, effectiveness, and impact. The Plan reflects our shared commitment to streamlining CAREC's scope, recalibrating sectoral strategies, and promoting regional public goods to address common challenges such as climate change, digital transformation, and transboundary connectivity. We **commend** the CAREC Program's envisaged robust investment pipeline and look forward to the outcomes and tangible benefits of the planned initiatives across transport, energy, trade facilitation, health, education, agriculture and natural resources.
  
3. We **endorse** the findings and recommendations of the Midterm Review of the CAREC Transport Strategy 2030 and support its strategic recalibration to reflect the evolving regional landscape. We recognize the critical role of sustainable, resilient, and digitally enabled transport systems in enhancing regional connectivity. We support efforts to scale up investments in green, resilient, and inclusive transport infrastructure, promote modal diversification, and advance smart mobility solutions. The establishment of a new and innovative *Borders Upgrades for Integration, Logistics, and Development (BUILD) facility* under CAREC will serve as a strategic instrument to accelerate the implementation of border modernization projects across the region, harmonization of standards, and mobilization of resources. We **welcome** the strategic approach to developing CAREC Corridor 2, which largely coincides with the Middle Corridor, as a strong example of translating vision into action. The identified \$4 billion investments with concrete interventions for 2025–2028 reflect a solid commitment to inclusive development of the corridor and private sector engagement.

4. We also **endorse** the findings and recommendations of the midterm reviews of the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 and CAREC Digital Strategy 2030. We recognize the importance of harmonizing trade, transport, and digital regulations, aligning trade and transport facilitation measures with international standards, promoting the adoption of interoperable digital systems, and expanding digital skills and entrepreneurship. We **support** the efforts of Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to advance their process of accession to the World Trade Organization. Predictability and transparency in trade regimes are essential to strengthening regional integration amid global uncertainties. We **welcome the signing** of the Bishkek Ministerial Declaration on the Launch of Negotiations for the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation (CARTIF) Agreement, a strategic regional initiative that will provide a structured yet flexible framework to reduce trade barriers, enhance investment flows, and promote cooperation in emerging areas such as digital trade, services and green economy. We also recognize the importance of introducing an electronic CAREC Advance Transit System and of promoting the establishment of Joint Border Control Points to strengthen regional trade and enhance the efficiency, predictability, and security of cross-border movements.

5. We **affirm our support** for the new *CAREC Digital Corridor* initiative, which represents a vital opportunity to enhance digital connectivity, reduce data transmission delays, and improve access to global digital services across the region. We recognize the importance of overcoming regulatory and technical barriers and call for coordinated efforts to move forward with feasibility assessments and regional partnerships for a digitally connected CAREC region. We are encouraged with the momentum in operationalizing the CAREC Partnership for Trade, Climate and Innovation signed at the sidelines of COP29. Specifically, we **welcome** the proposal to establish the CAREC Innovation and Venture Investment Catalyst (CIVIC) Facility to harness innovation and start up ecosystems, which will be a catalyst for venture capital and a structured support mechanism for a new generation of fund managers in the CAREC region. The pilot initiative to promote electronic exchange and mutual recognition of conformity certificates will also help facilitate trade.

6. We **commend** the progress made on the *Caspian Green Energy Corridor Project*. This Corridor offers a transformative opportunity to link Central Asia, South Caucasus, and Europe through clean energy, enhancing regional power exchange, strengthening energy security, and supporting the transition to low-carbon economies. With the feasibility study underway, we urge participating countries and development partners to move towards implementation by identifying priority investments, securing financing, and establishing the necessary institutional arrangements to operationalize the Corridor and deliver results.

7. We **welcome** the approval of the *Almaty–Bishkek Economic Corridor (ABEC) Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS) Project* to help facilitate trade and tourism between the Kyrgyz Republic and Kazakhstan through construction and upgrading of three climate-resilient and energy-efficient border crossing points between the two countries. We **look forward** to a feasibility study of a cross-border sustainable tourism cluster between the Kyrgyz Republic and Uzbekistan.

8. We **endorse** the *Regional Decarbonization Strategy for Healthcare* and the *Regionally Agreed Minimum Requirements for Climate-Resilient Health Facilities* as key instruments to strengthen climate resilience in the health sector through regional cooperation. These frameworks offer a coordinated approach for CAREC countries to reduce emissions in the health sector, and ensure continuity of care during climate-related shocks. We **commend** the approval of two transformative initiatives: (i) the *Glaciers to Farms (G2F)* regional program, which seeks to mobilize \$3.5 billion for eight CAREC countries to address critical climate vulnerabilities, including

glacier melt, water scarcity, and declining agricultural productivity; and (ii) the *Risk-Layered Disaster Relief Finance Sector Development Program for Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic*, which introduces innovative risk financing instruments such as disaster relief bonds to ensure timely and targeted disaster relief support to vulnerable populations. We **also look forward** to seeing the results of the *CAREC Water Energy Nexus Modeling*. Such multi-sector approach will deliver significant benefits to reduce energy shortages and promote efficient water use through better regional coordination.

9. We **appreciate** the operationalization of the *CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund (CSPPF)* and look forward to the implementation of the five approved project proposals under the first batch. These initiatives—covering renewable energy, climate-resilient transport and border infrastructure, and tourism, and transboundary water management—demonstrate the Fund’s catalytic role in advancing regional climate action. As demand for CSPPF continues to grow, we **call** on development partners and stakeholders to mobilize additional resources to ensure that more transformative climate-related regional projects can be prepared and delivered across the CAREC region.

10. We **commend** the successful convening of the *CAREC Business Forum*, which brought together private sector leaders, investors, and governments to explore opportunities for transforming CAREC corridors into engines of economic growth, digital innovation, and climate resilience. We congratulate the winners of the *CAREC Climate Resilience Challenge*, sponsored by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)-Korea Climate Technology Fund, whose pioneering solutions in water security, agriculture, energy transition, waste management, and digital supply chains exemplify the power of innovation in addressing regional climate priorities. More regular and targeted activities to engage the private sector are crucial for shaping and implementing initiatives that facilitate cross-border investment across the region.

11. We **reiterate** that CAREC is an open and inclusive platform and **express our support** for the institutional strengthening of the CAREC Program, including an enhanced collaboration framework among development partners for regional pipeline development, project monitoring and resource mobilization, as well as deeper engagement with the private sector. Improving Program effectiveness, monitoring, and enhanced ownership is essential to delivering tangible benefits to our people. We **encourage** member countries and development partners to forge impactful partnerships and create synergies with other regional initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Governance Initiative, and others, to reinvigorate regional cooperation and achieve regional public goods.

12. We **appreciate** the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for chairing and hosting the 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference, National Focal Points’ and Senior Officials’ meetings, and the various sector committee and working group meetings in 2025. We also thank the ADB, as the CAREC Secretariat, for the excellent arrangements and support. We look forward to assembling again in 2026 under the chairmanship of the Government of Mongolia to look back at the 25 years of the Program and chart our path towards a resilient and more integrated region.