



**Statement by Mr. Quichao Song
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It's my great pleasure to gather with everyone in Bishkek, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic. First of all, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to the government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Asian Development Bank for their diligent effort in preparing for this meeting.

Over the past year, we have worked together and actively implemented the CAREC 2030 Strategy and the outcomes of the 23rd Ministerial Conference, achieving notable progress in cooperation across various areas and significantly advancing regional integration. China wishes to congratulate all sides for these achievements.

As we speak, countries in Central Asia are actively advancing green and digital transformation of their economies, with immense potential for cooperation. In this context, the theme of this year's Conference, "Green and Digital CAREC," has significant practical relevance. China hopes to see countries deepening cooperation to promote green and digital development in this region. For that, I wish to propose four recommendations:

First, upholding open cooperation and fostering a favorable environment for development. By practicing true multilateralism, we can jointly uphold the multilateral trading system and continue to promote trade and investment liberalization and facilitation. We hope to see members strengthen policy communication and coordination, build an open regional economy, maintain smooth and stable industrial and supply chains, and steadily advance regional economic integration.

Second, focusing on key areas and deepening practical cooperation across various areas. We should continue to implement the CAREC 2030 Strategy, be more outcome-oriented in our cooperation across traditional fields such as transport, energy, agriculture, trade, and minerals and steadily advance regional infrastructure connectivity. Meanwhile, we should move ahead with CARTIF negotiations to speed up cooperation in digital trade. Furthermore, we should continue to promote "soft connectivity" to align our standards and rules so that the Central Asian region can truly emerge as a deeply integrated economic corridor.

Third, pursuing innovation-driven development and fostering new drivers of growth. By seizing opportunities presented by the new round of tech revolution and industrial transformation, we can effectively harness the catalytic role of innovation and empower traditional sectors such as

tourism and agriculture with digital technologies. At the same time, we can increase cooperation in emerging fields like green energy, artificial intelligence, new energy vehicles, and biomedicine to facilitate regional economic transition and allow new ideas and new models to transform into new powerful engines for development.

Fourth, expanding partnerships and advancing regional integration. We should strengthen cooperation with international organizations such as the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the CAREC Institute and further align the CAREC agenda with major initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative, the Global Development Initiative, the Global Security Initiative, as well as with national development strategies of member countries. Moreover, we need to mobilize more private sector resources and enhance experience sharing and knowledge cooperation, which will generate development synergies and more effectively support the transformation of the CAREC region.

This year is the final year of China's 14th Five-Year Plan period. Over the past five years, China's economy has achieved an average annual growth rate of around 5.5%, maintaining a contribution of around 30% to global economic growth. Recently, we concluded what we call the Fourth Plenum and outlined a blueprint for China's economic and social development in the next five years.

China will continue to advance Chinese modernization, further deepen reforms in all areas, and opening up more widely, joining hands with countries around the world to open up new fronts for mutually beneficial cooperation. Central Asia, being the heartland of Eurasia and a vital connectivity hub, stands as one of the world's most promising regions for development. China is committed to deepening practical cooperation with all CAREC members and making new contributions to the region's transformation and integration.

Thank you everyone!