



Statement by Mr. Genadi Arveladze
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It is a great honor to address you today at the 24th CAREC Ministerial Conference. On behalf of the Government of Georgia, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for hosting us so warmly here in capital Bishkek and for their gracious hospitality and excellent arrangements. I would also like to extend our deep appreciation to the CAREC Secretariat and to the Asian Development Bank for their continued leadership and tireless efforts in bringing us together.

Over the years, CAREC has been a vital platform for fostering regional cooperation, enhancing connectivity and promoting shared prosperity across our region. We gather today at a time when CAREC region faces both new challenges and new opportunities. It is through dialogue, partnership and collective action that we can continue to advance the vision of a more connected, resilient and sustainable CAREC region.

Since the last Ministerial, Georgia has made steady progress in improving its transport and logistics infrastructure, deepening customs and border modernization and advancing digital solutions to streamline trade. We believe these efforts contribute not only to Georgia's economic growth but also to the resilience and competitiveness of the broader CAREC region.

Let me briefly illustrate Georgia's recent macroeconomic indicators reflecting the progress we have achieved so far. In 2021-2024 Georgia demonstrated one of the highest rates of economic growth globally, amounting to 9.7% on average. In 2024, economic growth reached 9.4%. Preliminary estimates indicate that in January-September of 2025, economic growth was 7.7%.

Georgia's geographic position gives it a unique advantage. With access to the Black Sea, proximity to the Caspian Basin and land routes to Central Asia, the Middle East and Europe, Georgia serves as a vital gateway for goods, energy and investment flows. The East-West Transport Corridor, the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway and the Port of Anaklia project exemplify how Georgia is transforming from a mere transit country into a logistics and connectivity hub of regional and global significance.

Within the CAREC framework, Georgia's role extends beyond one particular sector or area. We are working to harmonize customs procedures, strengthen digital connectivity and foster green and resilient infrastructure. These efforts contribute not only to Georgia's national development

but also to the broader vision of CAREC, a region that is better integrated, more sustainable and more competitive in the global economy.

Furthermore, Georgia's experience in economic reform, governance and investment climate improvement provides valuable lessons for regional cooperation. Through initiatives in renewable energy, tourism and digital trade, we are demonstrating that connectivity is not just about infrastructure rather about shared values, innovation and partnership.

As global trade routes evolve and new economic centers emerge, the role of Georgia and of the CAREC region as a whole becomes ever more important. Together, we are shaping the future of regional connectivity, ensuring that our countries are not merely points on a map, but active participants in the global flow of ideas, goods and opportunities.

Georgia wishes to particularly commend CAREC and ADB for their outstanding work in updating the sectoral strategies reflecting the progress achieved so far as well as outlining the remaining challenges for our further deliberation.

We are also delighted for the opportunity to sign number of sectoral documents covering the areas like tourism development, trade facilitation, but more importantly, we are glad to sign CARTIF declaration proposing to start the official talks on this very important trade and investment partnership. Georgia very much values this initiative and hopes declaration's swift and effective implementation.

Georgia also applauds the introduction of sectoral initiatives and I would particularly like to highlight the BUILD Facility. This is very important initiative not only for Georgia but for the entire CAREC membership and region for the facilitated and accelerated transactions.

In summing up, Georgia's commitment to CAREC reflects our belief that regional cooperation is the foundation of shared success. By investing in links between East and West, we are investing in a more stable, prosperous, and connected future for Georgia, CAREC and for the entire region.

Let me once again express our sincere appreciation to the Kyrgyz Republic for the exceptional organization of the Ministerial as well as for the outstanding chairmanship throughout the Year. I would hereby like to extend many thanks to the CAREC Secretariat and ADB as well as to all the development partners for their valuable contributions and support.