



**Statement by Mr. Nematullo Khikmatullozoda
Advisor to the President of Tajikistan on Economic Issues
Executive Office of the President, and CAREC National Focal Point for Tajikistan
24th Ministerial Conference
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
November 20, 2025, Bishkek**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman!

Dear Mr. Masato Kanda,

Dear Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, allow me, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Tajik delegation, to welcome all participants to the Twenty-Fourth Ministerial Conference of the CAREC Program.

I would like to express gratitude to our colleagues from the Government of Kyrgyzstan for chairing the Program this year, as well as to the ADB team, particularly the CAREC Secretariat, for the impeccable organization of the Program's events.

I would also like to thank you for the excellent and informative presentations.

We are closely following developments across all clusters, sectors, and themes within the CAREC Program and are generally satisfied with the progress achieved.

We have also carefully reviewed all documents submitted for our consideration. There are many of them—significantly more than at previous ministerial conferences. All are the result of the long and meticulous work of specialists from relevant sectors in CAREC countries and development partners. I would like to extend special thanks to the CAREC Secretariat for its ongoing and continuous efforts in coordinating all these documents.

Regarding the results of the midterm reviews of the CAREC Transport and Digital Strategies 2030, as well as the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030, they generally provide a sufficiently accurate assessment of the implementation of planned regional actions and offer noteworthy forward-looking options for reinvigorating regional cooperation under the Program. Therefore, we endorse them.

Furthermore, taking into account that all proposals and comments from Tajikistan in the remaining documents submitted for our approval have already been incorporated, we approve the texts of all submitted documents. This applies to the Regional Decarbonization Strategy for Health and the text of the Joint Ministerial Statement.

Concerning the signing of Memoranda of Understanding, I would like to inform my esteemed colleagues that signing any documents on behalf of Tajikistan (including MOUs) requires officials to obtain specific signing authorization. This authorization is issued by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. Obtaining it involves specific domestic procedures requiring the engagement and approval of relevant government agencies, depending on the documents to be signed. Completing these procedures is quite time-consuming. As of today, these procedures have not been finalized, and therefore members of our delegation are not authorized to sign the aforementioned memoranda. This does not mean we oppose the proposed initiatives or disagree with the texts. The procedures for document coordination and obtaining the necessary signing authority will continue in accordance with established processes by the relevant structures in Tajikistan.

Taking this opportunity, on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan, I would like to once again affirm our full support for the CAREC Program.

We are confident that this year's activities will reinforce CAREC's profile as a results-oriented program and provide fresh impetus for generating greater interest and stronger support from multilateral institutions.

Thank you for your attention.