Statement by Mr. Begymrat Allakbayev
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Turkmenistan

25th Ministerial Conference
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Program
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Dear First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development of Mongolia, Mr. Enkhbayar Jadamba!

Dear ADB President Masato Kanda!

Dear Ministers of CAREC countries!

Distinguished participants of the Conference and development partners!

It is a great honor for me to represent Turkmenistan at the landmark 25th CAREC Ministerial Conference.

On behalf of the Government of Turkmenistan and my delegation, I would like to express my appreciation to the Government of Mongolia for the high standard of organization of this historic event; to the CAREC countries for many years of productive cooperation; and to the Asian Development Bank, the CAREC Secretariat, and development partners for their support and sustained efforts to strengthen regional cooperation.

Over the past twenty-five years, the CAREC Program has become an important platform for regional dialogue, bringing together government representatives and public officials, highly qualified experts, and development practitioners. The Program has been an effective driver of regional economic cooperation and integration.

Against the backdrop of today's increasingly fragmented world, as traditional logistics chains are being reconfigured, transport and energy connectivity is gaining importance, digital transformation is accelerating, and technological and investment cooperation is becoming more prominent, the CAREC Program is strengthening economic connectivity and maintaining its resilience.

Today's complex economic and environmental realities, as well as major changes in the global economy and international trade, require us to move the strategies adopted under the Program into practical implementation. This is being achieved primarily through the implementation of joint programs and regional projects.

Thus, over the period to date, we consider strengthened cooperation in transport and energy to be CAREC's most significant contribution to Turkmenistan's development. Investments in transport and energy connectivity in Turkmenistan, supported by ADB lending totaling $700 million, have generated a substantial multiplier effect. They have catalyzed significant public investment in investment projects totaling more than $2 billion.

The National Power Grid Strengthening Project has substantially enhanced the reliability and resilience of Turkmenistan's power system. By modernizing and strengthening transmission infrastructure, it has improved system performance, reduced operational constraints, and enhanced our country's potential for regional electricity trade and energy interconnectivity.

This outcome clearly demonstrates the critical role of modern, resilient energy infrastructure in sustaining economic growth and advancing regional energy cooperation.

Another example of tangible regional benefits is the North–South railway corridor connecting Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Iran, which has been put into operation.

This corridor has expanded transit opportunities, strengthened trade links, and improved access to international markets. These improvements have enhanced Turkmenistan's role as a regional transport and logistics hub and generated broader economic benefits through deeper regional integration and expanded regional trade.

I would also like to note that, in addition to investment projects, under the CAREC Program our country received technical and advisory support in drafting the Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime, with a view to initiating negotiations on our country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The fundamental rationale for the country's accession to the WTO is to ensure economic growth through expanded trade and the attraction of foreign investment. The reforms accompanying this process are aimed at strengthening cooperation, integration, and the development of global trade.

Distinguished participants of the Conference!

The world is entering a period of profound economic, technological, and climate transformation. In these circumstances, strengthening regional connectivity, developing sustainable infrastructure, digital transformation, energy cooperation, and climate change adaptation are acquiring particular importance.

We are convinced that the CAREC Program has all the necessary prerequisites to remain one of the leading platforms for regional cooperation, contributing to the sustainable and inclusive development of the countries of our region.

In conclusion, allow me once again to emphasize that Turkmenistan remains firmly committed to close cooperation with CAREC countries and development partners in order to further advance our shared goals for the sustainable and stable development of the region.