

Background

CARTIF - Advancing Economic Integration, Trade, and Investment Cooperation in CAREC

Key Features and Objectives of the CARTIF Partnership:

- **Voluntary and Inclusive:** Open to all CAREC countries, participation is voluntary and interest-based, with differentiated responsibilities.
- **Soft Agreement:** CARTIF is not a traditional trade agreement, it sets up a framework without creating market access commitments.
- **Modular Design:** Divided into Initial Protocols (mandatory for joining) and Additional Protocols (negotiated later by interested parties), allowing for gradual integration.
- **Strategic Goals:** Facilitate trade in goods and services across borders, Promote regulatory transparency and cooperation, Encourage investment through improved policies and procedure, Support digital trade, e-commerce, and inclusive participation (e.g. SMEs, women), Create a structured but flexible path toward deeper regional trade integration.

Bishkek Ministerial Declaration on CARTIF Negotiations

- **Bishkek Ministerial Declaration on CARTIF Negotiations** was adopted at the CAREC Ministerial Conference held in Bishkek city on 20 November 2025.
- **Nine CAREC countries** (PRC, GEO, KAZ, KGZ, MON, PAK, TAJ, TKM, and UZB) signed the Declaration. AZE is in the process of internal procedures to sign.

CAREC Ministers welcomed the CARTIF Zero-draft as the basis for launching formal negotiations among interested CAREC countries and supported the official launch of negotiations on CARTIF to conclude a modern, development-oriented economic partnership agreement.

