

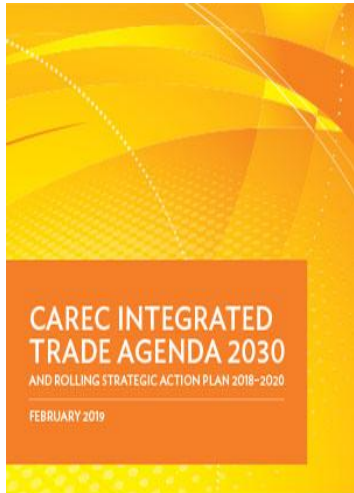


# CATS/ICE: Evolution, Current Status, Features, and Future Development Roadmap

**Ms. Zulfia Karimova**, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB

**Mr. Aivaras Pigaga**, Customs and Transit Facilitation Specialist, ADB Consultant

# Regional Transit Development under CAREC



- **CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030** supports development of effective transit facilitation schemes
- **CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee** includes regional transit development in its priority areas of work
- Transit trade remains crucial in Central Asia noting most are **landlocked countries**
- CAREC region as a vital link to **diversify transit routes between Asia and Europe** (i.e., Middle Corridor)
- Need to strengthen **regional cooperation** to address transit facilitation challenges and gaps



World Customs Organization  
Organisation mondiale des douanes



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

- General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (**GATT**)
- Revised Kyoto Convention (**RKC**)
- World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement (**TFA**)
- World Customs Organization (WCO) **Transit Guidelines** (2017).

## CATS/ICE Principles

- ✓ **Sound legal framework** which allows for data exchange with other entities and countries
- ✓ **Simple and speedy** treatment and harmonizing customs control **procedures**
- ✓ **Minimum documentation** and formalities
- ✓ The utilization of **comprehensive transit guarantees**
- ✓ **Non-discrimination** and freedom of transit

# Opportunity to Improve the Existing CAREC Transit Systems

- The introduction of a CAREC regional transit system supported by a **CAREC guarantee** mechanism would:
  - Enhance security of the supply chain across the region
  - Help trade flow more smoothly and efficiently across borders
  - Reduce the overall cost of trade

- ✓ **Single transit declaration**

- Design based on the T1 form of EU's NCTS
- CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) prototype has been developed

- ✓ **Electronic customs-to-customs transit data exchange platform**

- An Information Common Exchange (ICE) prototype has been developed

- ✓ **A risk-based affordable guarantee mechanism** that rewards compliant traders

- different guarantee levels based on risks
- Able to guarantee multiple transit movements



# CAREC Advanced Transit System (CATS) and Information Common Exchange (ICE)



## **CATS system as the user interface**

The CATS system provides a user-friendly interface for customs officials, insurers/guarantors and trade operators to interact within the pre-defined transit process.



## **ICE system as the orchestrator**

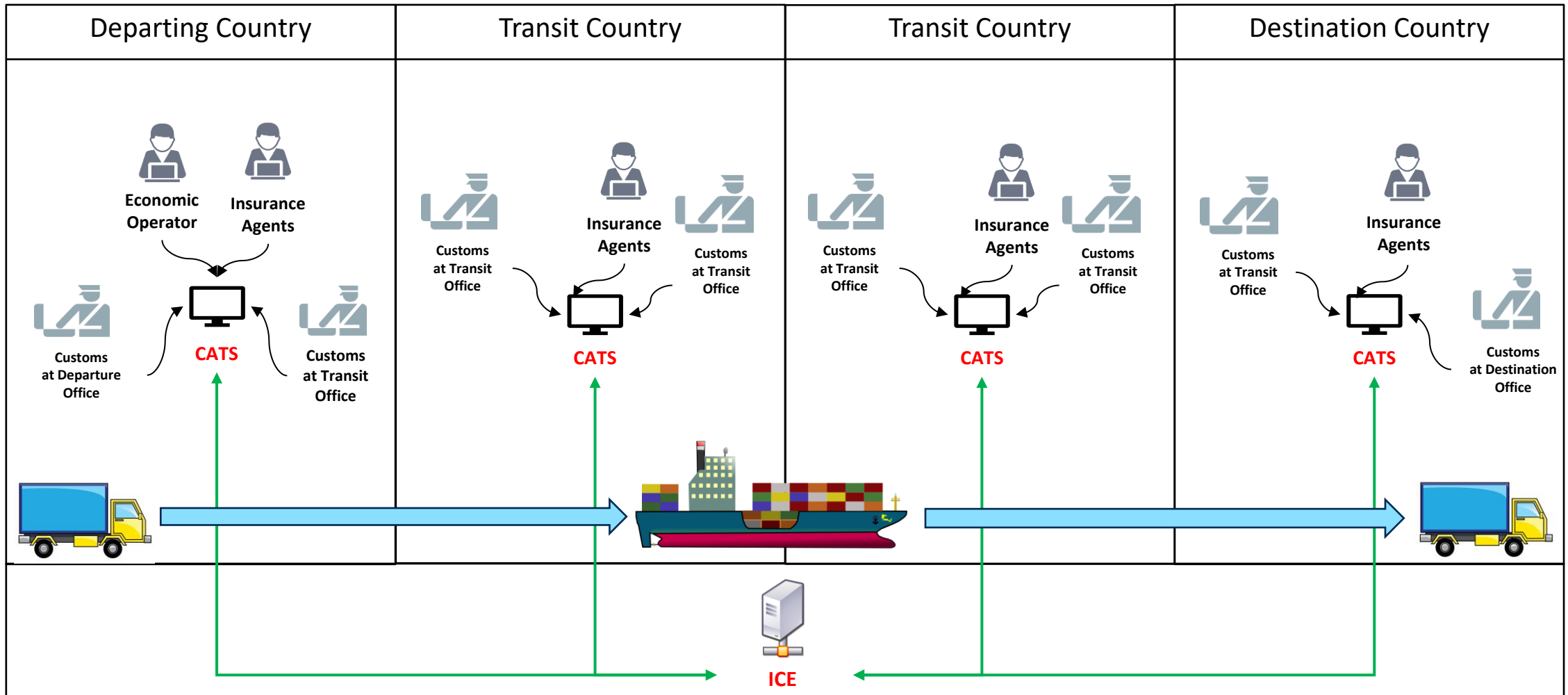
The ICE system acts as the central hub, orchestrating the exchange of information and messages related to transit process between CATS users.



## **Harmonized message exchanges**

The ICE system ensures standardized and harmonized message exchanges between the participating CAREC member states, facilitating seamless information flow.

# Overview of the CATS/ICE Procedure



# Features of Transit Regimes

Transit Regime	Customs-to-Business and Customs-to-Customs Data exchange	Guarantee Mechanism			AEO Facilitation Measures
		Inter-country Guarantee mechanism	Comprehensive Guarantees	Risk based Guarantee Amounts	
CATS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NCTS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ACTS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
TIR	X	X	X	X	Limited



# Status Updates (1)

## Evaluation of the CATS/ICE Achievements, Workplan and Roadmap

- Evaluation of key milestones, progress, best practice and key lessons in 2025
- Roadmap until 2030
- Detailed workplan until 2026

## Memorandum of Understanding

- Revised draft to extend validity and include other countries
- Signed by pilot countries, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Uzbekistan in November 2025
- New countries: Kyrgyz Republic and Pakistan
- Turkmenistan and Tajikistan in progress

# Status Updates (2)

## Multi-Country Framework Agreement (MCFA) to support the Implementation of CATS/ICE

- Draft submitted for domestic legal review in July 2025 and March 2026
- Deliberated and draft finalized in Working Group Meeting in May 2026 in Tbilisi
- Submitted for final round of domestic legal review in June 2026

## CATS/ICE Software Evolution V1 -> V2 -> V3

- Each version undergone conformity and parallel testing session.
- Version 2 and 3 testing included guarantors and economic operators
- Feedback from Customs and private sector taken into account in new versions

# Status Updates (3)

## Procedural Manuals and Training Material

- Procedural Manuals are scheduled to be developed in 2026
- Manuals for Customs, Guarantors, and Economic Operators

## Common Specifications vs Application Specifications

- Software Specifications are scheduled to be separate into mandatory Common Specifications and Application Specifications
- Common Specifications will be backed by Conformance Testing Procedures and Test Cases

# Roadmap to Full CATS/ICE Live Operations

