

CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2026-2029

Legend: ● = Investment Project; ● = Policy Dialogue; ● = Knowledge Product; Highlights in yellow = Supported by TA 0069 subprojects and related technical assistance s

A. UNDER IMPLEMENTATION				B. PROPOSALS		
Area	Project / Activity	Type of Input	Countries	Project / Activity	Type of Input	Proponents
Pillar 1: Trade Expansion from Increased Market Access						
1 Trade policy and measures	WTO accession and post-accession support, e.g. reforms in trade procedures, tariff rates, subsidies ensuring alignment of national legislation and measures and compliance with WTO agreements	●	AZE, TKM, UZB	Road map for transformation of trade policy and trade facilitation; customs and tax reform support program; harmonization of policy and regulations (PBL)	● ●	AZE, TKM, UZB
	WTO agreements implementation	●	KAZ	Institutional reforms in border management (through PBL), including preliminary customs clearance or joint inspection procedures and Green Corridors for perishable goods with separate simplified lane	●	UZB
2 Customs and trade facilitation	Regional mapping to assess the applicability of integrating green solutions at select border crossing points	●	REG	Simplification of customs, border and transit procedures and liberalization of cross-border trade; link customs clearance and risk management systems	●	GEO, PAK, TAJ, TKM
	Green and smart border facilities based on the Border Efficiency for Sustainable Trade (BEST) and Regional Improvement of Border Services (RIBS) projects	●	REG			
3 Border infrastructure and facilities	Establishment of a BCP regional facility: Borders Upgrades for Integration, Logistics and Development (BUILD) facility	●	REG	Reconstruct Yallama, Dustlik-Aytodorozhny, Sariyasiya and integrate digital solutions	●	UZB
	Almaty-Bishkek Economic Corridor Regional Improvement of Border Services	●	KGZ	Use of scanners, automated, or contactless systems, and electronic queue management system in BCPs	●	PAK, UZB
	Joint BCP infrastructure, harmonized customs procedures, coordinated management	●	AZE, GEO	Digital infrastructure for seamless customs operations	●	AZE
	Develop CAREC Corridor 2 (Middle Corridor) with common standards, joint investment projects, inclusive regional mechanism	●	GEO	Modernize border infrastructure (inspection equipment, technical control, customs warehouses, logistics centers) e.g., Port of Baku connectivity	●	AZE, KAZ, TAJ
				Construct and equip BCPs at Bedel, Yntymak, Karamyk, Issyk-Kul; add Bedel to Corridor 1, open and include Yntymak in Corridor 2, upgrade Karamyk to international status; modernize Torugart and Irkeshtam BCPs; equip Issyk-Kul and Karakol airports with inspection and control systems.	●	KGZ
				Modernize Khariachi, Ghulam Khankhel, and Agoor BCPs	●	PAK
				Develop logistics hubs in Navoi, Tashkent, and Termez for multimodal transit between the PRC, South Asia, and Caucasus	●	UZB
				Develop multimodal and intermodal logistics centers (dry ports, terminals) near key BCPs and key routes	●	KAZ, KGZ, UZB
				Regional strategy to improve logistics services, including logistics hubs and terminals	●	TKM
4 Digital trade processes and documents	Digital and regulatory alignment, scale up digital innovations regionally	●	AZE, GEO, KAZ, KGZ, MON, PAK, TAJ, TKM, UZB	NSW for trade based on international standards (through PBL)	●	UZB
	• Digitalization of cross-border process, electronic document management, new digital services, cybersecurity	●				
	• Establish NSW, facilitate advance manifest of import, export or transit cargo	●				
	Common digital system or regional platform for documentation, verification, data sharing; electronic exchange of trade documents	● ●	GEO	E-Corridor integrating NSWs or regional Electronic Pre-Parcel Information system for all members	● ●	UZB
	Use of disruptive technology for customs performance	●	GEO, MON			
5 CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange Pilot Project	Pilot to expand Pakistan single window to more regulatory agencies from CAREC members through bilateral arrangements, a precursor to integrating single windows regionally	●	PAK			
	• Pilot of a CAREC regional transit scheme based on comprehensive and risk-based guarantees, and a customs information common exchange	● ●	AZE, GEO, KGZ, MON, PAK, UZB			
6 Authorized Economic Operator program	• Private sector engagement in the project's parallel testing	●				
	• Expansion of pilot implement to other countries	●				
7 Risk management	• Capacity building and mutual recognition on authorized economic operators	●	AZE, MON, PAK			
	• Expand membership to manufacturers, freight forwarders, customs brokers, international postal services, and customs-business partnership	●				
8 Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures	Capacity building on customs risk management and intelligence	●	PRC, MON, PAK	SPS risk assessment and risk-based inspection at selected BCPs	●	KGZ
	• Digitalize SPS control systems (e-certificates, automate procedures)	●	KGZ, PAK, TKM	Construct modern SPS laboratories at borders (e.g., Syrdarya, Fergana); modernize quarantine posts	●	UZB
	• Establish single register of permits and procedures at national and regional level	●				
	• Integrate SPS system into NSWs	●				
	Adopt or expand ePhyto system	●	KAZ, MON, PAK, UZB	Upgrade border inspection posts for SPS control, e.g., Batumi port	●	GEO
	Adopt electronic veterinary certificates	●	UZB	Modernize quarantine posts	●	TKM
	Align national SPS legislation and procedures with international standards	●	GEO, TKM, UZB	• Centralized database on SPS-related information	●	KGZ, MON, PAK, TKM, UZB
				• Establish a regional center for SPS risk assessment	●	
				• Regional mechanism for early warning and joint response to SPS threats	●	
				Mutual recognition arrangements for SPS certificates	●	UZB
9 Technical regulations	Pilot mutual recognition and electronic exchange of e-certification of conformity certificates and test results	●	AZE, KGZ, PAK, TAJ, UZB	• International accreditation for testing laboratories	●	KGZ, PAK, TKM
	• Align technical regulations with international standards	●		• Strengthen SPS laboratory and diagnostic capacity	●	
10 Non-tariff barriers	• Mutual recognition arrangements	●		• Training of stakeholders on SPS compliance	●	
	• Recognition of certificates of conformity and standards esp. in food and textile industries	●	UZB	• Technical assistance on improvement of SPS systems	●	
				Integrating e-conformity certificates into National Single Window	●	MON
				Address regulatory inconsistencies, NTBs, promote mutual recognition	●	GEO
				• Platform for monitoring and eliminating NTBs	●	
				• Create national portal on trade barriers where businesses can file complaints	●	UZB
Pillar 2: Greater Diversification						

11	Trade reforms			Promote green trade and sustainable development, create mechanism for green certificates of origin, regional training platform and unified standards for green trade	●	TAJ	
				Align legislation with international standards in competition, standardization and certification, protection of intellectual property rights	●	UZB	
				Promote green supply chains and environmental trade	●	GEO	
12	Services trade			Reforms of trade procedures in services e.g. freight, logistics, finance (through PBL)	●	UZB	
				Consider participating in global reviews (e.g., Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Services Trade Restrictiveness Index)	●	KAZ	
				Financial services reforms e.g., liberalization of foreign exchange regulations (through PBL)	●	TAJ, UZB	
				Digitalization of trade and investment services	●	AZE, TKM	
13	Investment facilitation	Investment promotion strategies tailored to industrial parks and special economic zones; leverage investment agreements	●	AZE, PAK	Legal harmonization, regulatory simplification, digital transformation	●	GEO
				Harmonize investment policies: create regional investment portal, ensure transparent investment protection mechanisms	●	KAZ	
				Reforms in investment protection (through PBL)	●	UZB	
				Investment promotion strategies tailored to industrial parks and special economic zones; leverage investment agreements	●	AZE, PAK	
				Attract private sector, e.g., through concessions for management of warehouse terminals	●	TAJ	
				Create regional innovative hub	●	KGZ	
14	Cross-border e-commerce	Enhance regulatory framework on e-commerce and digital trade; Policy reforms (PBL)	●	AZE, KAZ, TKM, UZB	Uniform rules on e-commerce and data protection in CAREC, pilot project	●	TKM, UZB
		Develop cross-border payment system framework	●	UZB	Establish CAREC e-Payment portal for payment of duties and taxes	●	PAK
15	Tourism	Promote cross-border green tourism services • Digital readiness assessments, benchmarking green tourism practices, and harmonized regional frameworks • Pilot digital solutions at key BCP, including e-visas and mobile travel apps	●	KGZ, TAJ			
16	Regional value chains	Develop export-oriented critical minerals	●	GEO, KAZ, MON, PAK	• Develop regional value chains, including cooperation in agriculture and light industries • Promote green trade corridors through use of renewable energy and low-emission	●	AZE, TAJ
				Raise awareness and capacities on carbon standards	●	GEO, KAZ	
Pillar 3: Stronger Institutions for Trade							
17	Regional trade agreement	CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership Agreement (CARTIF), including capacity building and experts recommendations; leverage CARTIF to expand, diversify and promote sustainable trade Free trade agreement negotiation and implementation; use of online course such as UN ESCAP's Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Adviser	●	PRC, GEO, KAZ, KGZ, MON, PAK, TAJ, TKM, UZB			
			●	KAZ, MON, PAK, UZB			
18	Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring	Continue to measure and assess the competitiveness of CAREC corridors develop an online portal to facilitate wider awareness and use of CPMM data, reports and activities. ADB-CAREC Institute partnership to elevate the CPMM annual report and its dissemination. Develop CPMM briefs on countryspecific trade facilitation recommendations to CAREC governments for evidence-based policymaking	●	REG	Studies on trade corridor efficiency	●	AZE
			●	REG			
19	Human and institutional capacity	Training, seminars, and capacity building for trade, customs, logistics, and technical regulatory agencies to strengthen their institutional capacity Mechanism for national trade facilitation committees to exchange ideas and identify new approaches and includes the private sector	●	GEO, KAZ, TAJ, TKM, UZB	Establish regional centers of excellence in trade and investment	●	TKM
			●	GEO	Regional Border Management Academy to train customs and border services	●	UZB
20	Monitoring and evaluation	• Support M&E for all CAREC Trade projects under CITA • Create common mechanism for M&E of trade reforms and projects	●	AZE, KAZ, UZB	Regular audits of border-crossing procedures with the participation of independent experts and private sector	●	UZB
21	Private sector participation	• Establish platform for regular public-private dialogue to identify problems and joint solutions to improve trade and investment environment. • Regular forums with private sector. Involve private sector in business innovation, and e-commerce, supply chain services, banking and finance projects. • Facilitate alliance of chambers of commerce in CAREC countries Support for trade promotion agencies, trade fairs, training on access to global markets, financial assistance and facilitation, networking and startups	●	KGZ, PAK, TAJ, TKM, UZB			
			●	GEO, KAZ, KGZ, TAJ			
22	Support to SMEs	Support for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and women traders and entrepreneurs through programs, awareness, networking and startups	●	MON	Technical and financial assistance to SMEs in entering foreign markets including through e-commerce networks, certification centers, export accelerators, training, tools for accessing finance including guarantees, microloans, and factoring for exporters • Digital payment system projects for small exporters and logistics providers • Logistics hubs (fulfillment centers) for small exporters in Tashkent and Samarkand	●	GEO, KAZ, KGZ, TAJ, UZB
23	Link with other initiatives	Expand initiatives to link with global networks and initiatives by other development partners and other programs (e.g., Trans-Caspian Corridor, Digital Economy Program)	●	REG			

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AZE = Azerbaijan, BCP = border-crossing point, CARTIF = CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation, PRC = People's Republic of China, GEO = Georgia, KAZ = Kazakhstan, KGZ = Kyrgyz Republic, MON = Mongolia, M&E = monitoring and evaluation, NSW = national single window, NTB = nontariff barrier, PAK = Pakistan, PBL = policy-based loan, SMEs = small and medium-sized enterprises, SPS = sanitary and phytosanitary, TAJ = Tajikistan, TKM = Turkmenistan, UZB = Uzbekistan, WTO = World Trade Organization.

Source: CAREC Secretariat, based on CAREC members' proposals via surveys and consultations.