

Joint Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group (RTG) and Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC)

4 June 2026, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia



Objectives: The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Regional Trade Group (RTG) – Customs Cooperation Committee (CCC) Joint Meeting will discuss progress of CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030 implementation, considering its Midterm Review recommendations, and related initiatives. The meeting will endorse the CITA Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) 2026-2028, which will be reported to CAREC Ministers through the Senior Officials' Meeting on 11-12 June 2026.

Reference documents: (i) CITA 2030 Midterm Review; (ii) CAREC Trade Sector Report 2025-2026; and (iii) Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2026-2028 (to be provided)

Participants: Appointed Representatives of Countries to the RTG, CCC focals, development partners

Country Chairs: **Ms. Erdenetuya Darinchuluun**, Director General of Trade and Economic Cooperation Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development and CAREC National Focal Point for Mongolia (CAREC RTG Chair)

Mr. Enkhtaivan Gelegjamts, Deputy Director General, Mongolian Customs General Administration (CAREC CCC Chair)

Agenda

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09:15–09:30	Registration
09:30–09:40 (10 mins)	Opening Session Mr. Batkhoo Idesh , State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy and Development of Mongolia Mr. Asad Aleem , Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank
09:40–09:55 (15 mins)	Session 1: Meeting Overview and Setting the Stage <i>The session will discuss progress under the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030, particularly: (i) the CAREC Trade Sector Report 2025-2026; (ii) CITA-related Memorandums of Understanding signed at the 24th Ministerial Conference in November 2025; (iii) CITA Midterm Review recommendations; and (iv) possible deliverables for the 25th Ministerial Conference in September 2026.</i> <i>The session will also provide a brief background on ADB's 2026 Asian Economic Integration Report, with a focus on recent developments on trade agreements, global value chains and digital investment.</i> Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC (5 mins)• Mr. Rolando Avendano, Senior Economist, Economic Research and Development Impact Department (ERDI) (10 mins)

09:55–10:10 (15 mins)	Group photo and coffee break
10:10–11:10 (60 mins)	<p>Session 2: Supporting Trade Policy Reforms and Agreements</p> <p><i>The session will (i) report on the outcomes of the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership Agreement (CARTIF) Zero Round of Negotiations, (ii) progress of the support to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Accession of CAREC countries, (iii) outcomes of the Workshop on Navigating Trade Issues and WTO Transparency Requirements, and other trade policy support to CAREC countries; and other trade-related activities/initiatives in CAREC members.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Erdenetuya Darinchuluun (RTG Chair)</p> <p>Presentation: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC (5 mins) Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC (5 mins)</p> <p>Tour de Table: RTG members and/or CARTIF Chief Negotiators (50 mins)</p>
11:10–12:10 (60 mins)	<p>Session 3: Modernizing Border Crossing Points and Trade Facilitation Measures</p> <p><i>Progress and developments in (i) border crossing point (BCP) upgrades and the proposed Border Upgrades in Logistics and Development (BUILD) Facility, (ii) CAREC Advanced Transit System and Information Common Exchange (CATS/ICE), (iii) outcomes of the Workshop on Advancing Digital and Green Trade Facilitation in CAREC Countries, (iv) roll-out of the expanded Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) methodology, and others.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Enkhtaivan Gelegjamts (CAREC CCC Chair)</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ari J. Kalliokoski, Principal Transport Specialist, Transport Sector, Office, Sectors Department 1 (5 mins) • Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC (5 mins) <p>Tour de Table: CCC members (50 mins)</p>
12:20–13:20 (60 mins)	Lunch
13:30–14:00 (30 mins)	<p>Session 4: Accelerating Digital Trade</p> <p><i>Progress and developments in (i) pilot project on electronic exchange and mutual recognition of product conformity certificates, (ii) outcomes of the seminar on Advancing Cross-Border Trade through Digital Payments, and other activities.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Tsendsuren Davaa, MCGA (CAREC CCC Co-Chair)</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC (5 mins) <p>Open Discussion (20 mins)</p>



<p>14:00–14:30 (30 mins)</p>	<p>Session 5: Expanding Investments and Trade in Services</p> <p><i>Progress and developments in (i) outcomes of the CAREC Session at the ADB Annual Meeting, (ii) regional tourism development, (iii) Roadmap for Sustainable Investment Policy Reforms in Uzbekistan, (iv) diagnostics of services trade restrictiveness or Regulatory Impact Assessment, and Asian Economic Integration Report (AEIR).</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC (5 mins) • Mr. Rolando Avendano, Senior Economist, Economic Research and Development Impact Department (ERDI) (15 mins) <p>Open Discussion (15 mins)</p>
<p>14:30–15:15 (45 mins)</p>	<p>Session 6: Scaling Investment Projects for the CITA Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP)</p> <p><i>ADB will share (i) pipeline projects related to trade and (ii) available resources for project preparation, and (iii) process for proposing and developing pipeline projects. Countries will provide updates and feedback.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Improvement of Border Services Projects (Mongolia) (5 mins) • Trade and Competitiveness Program (Pakistan) (5 mins) • Promoting Accelerated Integration to Global Value Chains (WTO) Program (Uzbekistan) (5 mins) <p>Open Forum (25 mins)</p>
<p>15:15–15:30 (15 mins)</p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p>15:30–16:30 (60 mins)</p>	<p>Session 7: Development Partners' Perspectives</p> <p><i>Development partners will share their ongoing initiatives and plans for CAREC and how their work aligns to support CAREC trade work. Development partners will be given 3-5 minutes to deliver intervention.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Zulfia Karimova, Principal Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC</p> <p>Interventions from development partners (45 mins)</p> <p>Open Discussion (15 mins)</p>
<p>16:30–17:00 (30 mins)</p>	<p>Wrap up and Closing Session</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Erdenetuya Darinchuluun (RTG Chair)</p> <p>Presentation: Highlights of RTG and CCC Meeting Outcomes and Next Steps (5 mins) Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC</p>



Feedback from RTG and CCC members

Closing Remarks

Mr. Enkhtaivan Gelegjamts, CCC Chair

Mr. Chandra Arora, Officer in Charge, Mongolia Resident Mission, East Asia Department, ADB

