



Session 1

Overview of the CARTIF progress for the period of 2024-2025 and introduction to the agenda

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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.

Key Milestones 2024-2025

- **April 2024** - Draft CARTIF concept presented at CAREC Regional Trade Group in Astana.
- **June 2024** - CARTIF concept discussed and endorsed at regional workshop in Istanbul.
- **January - June 2025** - CARTIF Zero-Draft prepared and supported by CAREC trade focals.



*Inaugural Meeting for the Negotiations of
the CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Partnership Agreement
11 March 2026*

Key Milestones 2024-2025

- **March - June 2025** - Series of the consultations with CAREC countries at the online and hybrid regional workshops on the CARTIF Zero-draft.
- **August 2025** - Final discussion and endorsement by the CAREC trade focals of the CARTIF Zero-draft in Bishkek.
- **September 2025** - Draft CARTIF Ministerial Declaration finalized and prepared for adoption at the CAREC Ministerial Conference.



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.
- **Eight CAREC countries** (PRC, GEO, KAZ, KGZ, MON, PAK, TKM, and UZB) signed the Declaration. AZE and TAJ are in the process of internal procedures to sign.

CAREC countries 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 with a view to concluding a modern, development-oriented partnership.



Introduction to the agenda

- **Session 2: Presentation of the CARTIF implementation plan.**

The session will discuss the implementation plan that sets out a detailed, action-oriented roadmap for launching and conducting negotiations on the CARTIF, in line with the Bishkek Ministerial Declaration. The implementation plan focuses on operational readiness, capacity building, structured negotiations, and delivery of agreed outputs, while ensuring inclusiveness and flexibility for CAREC countries at different stages of development and WTO engagement.

- **Session 3: CARTIF Working groups establishment and operation.**

The session will discuss the establishment, operation and composition of the CARTIF working groups for each initial CARTIF protocol.

- **Session 4: CAREC Country Statements.**

Each CAREC member state is requested to review and provide feedback on the proposed CARTIF Implementation Plan chapters. Additionally, member states should indicate their interest in participating in the CARTIF working groups.

- **Session 5: Next Steps**

This session will outline the next steps for CARTIF negotiation process.

THANK YOU !