



Session 1: **Midterm Review of the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030**

Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
Roman Mogilevskii, Senior Economist, CWRC
Bahodir Ganiev, Resource Person

7th Meeting of the CAREC Regional Trade Group (RTG)
13 June 2025, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

RTG Meeting Agenda

Session 1:

Midterm Review of the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030

Session 2:

Updates and Lessons from Specific CAREC Trade Initiatives

Session 3:

Country Proposals for Regional Trade Projects and Interventions

Session 4:

Development Partners Perspectives

Session 5:

CITA Rolling Strategic Action Plan 2025–2027 and Recommendations

Session 1:

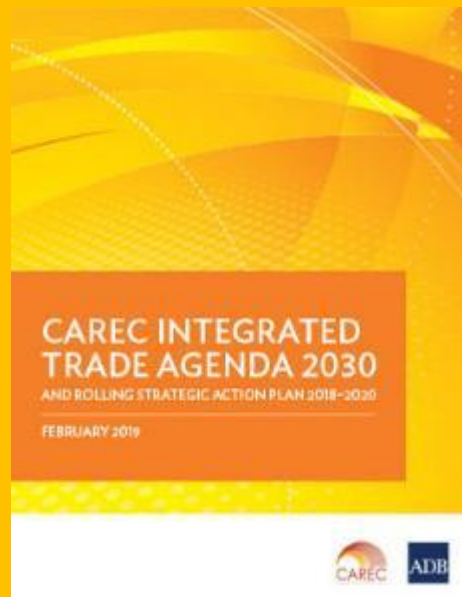
Midterm Review of the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030

1. CITA 2030 Midterm Review
2. Global and Regional Context
3. CITA 2030 Activities and Achievements
4. Preliminary Summary of Stakeholder Feedback
5. Preliminary Recommendations

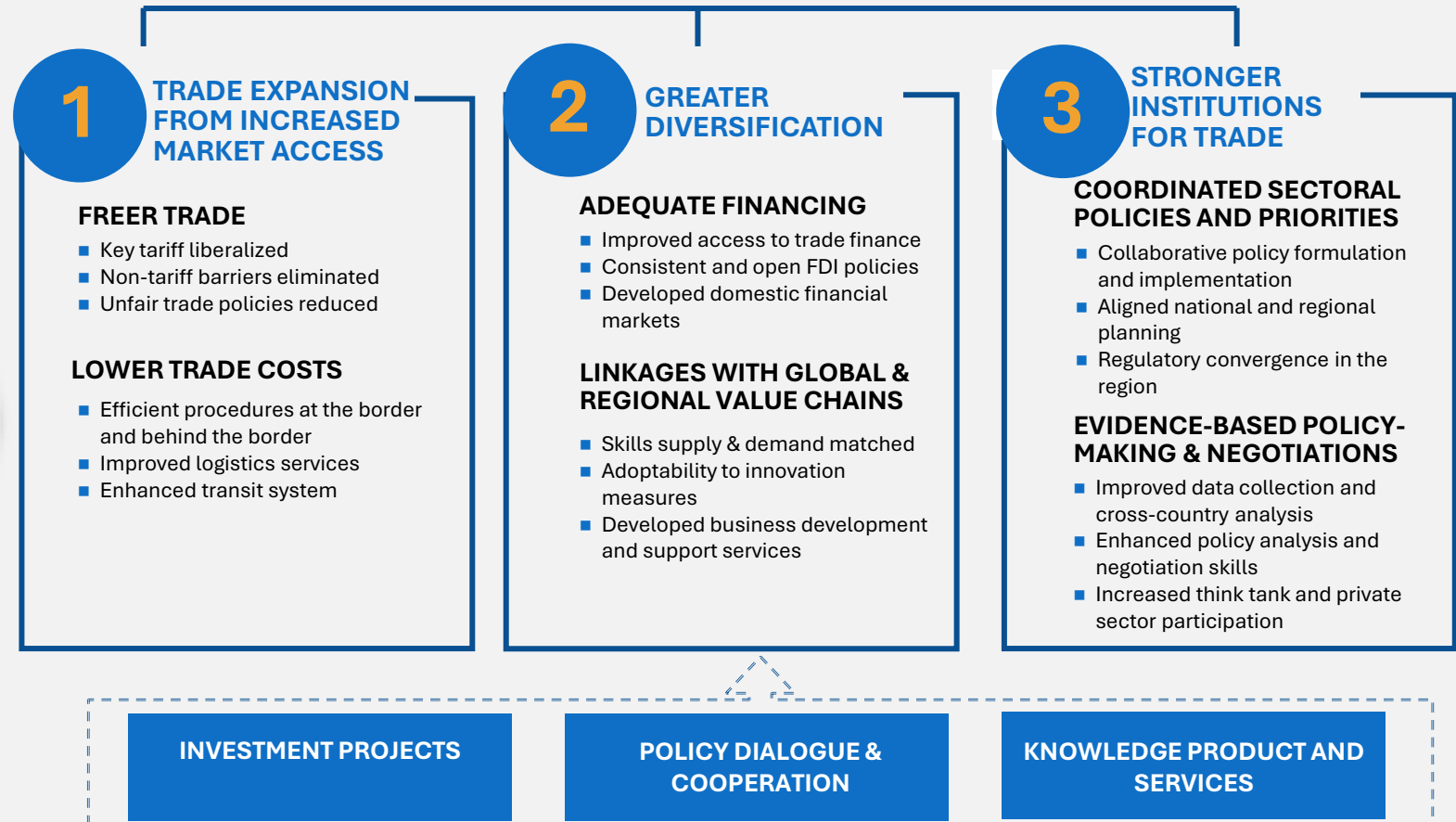


https://www.carecprogram.org/?page_id=26608

CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030



CAREC COUNTRIES ARE MORE INTEGRATED INTO THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

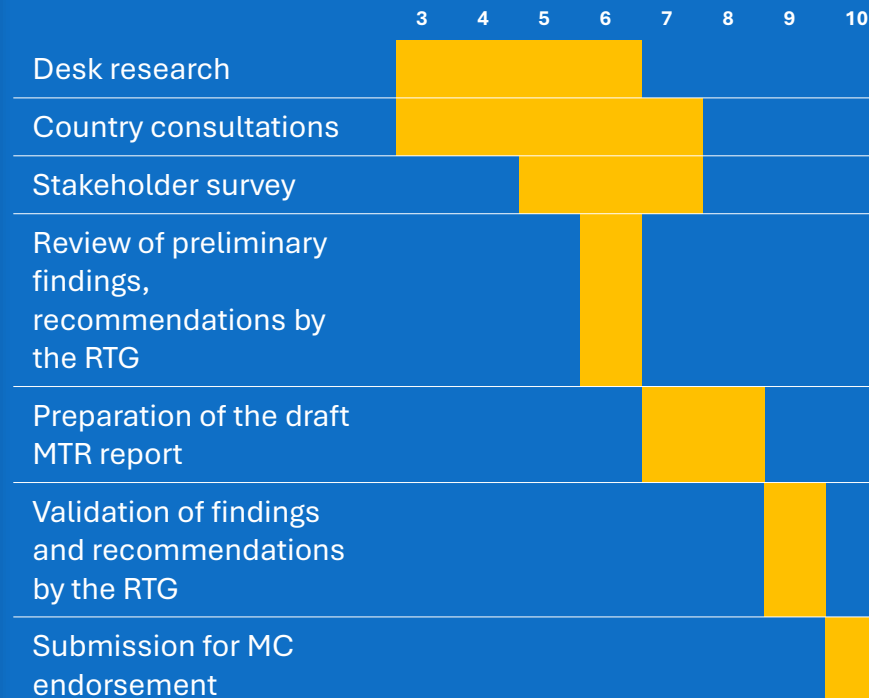


CITA 2030 Midterm Review

Objectives

1. Assess the **progress** of CITA 2030 implementation during the period 2018–2024
2. Ensure the **continued relevance** of CITA 2030 within the evolving global and regional context
3. Enhance its **effectiveness and efficiency** in fostering sustainable development across CAREC countries

Timeline



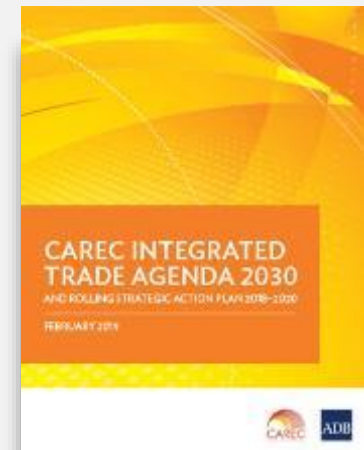
Consultations



Survey Responses

	Trade Focals	CAREC Advisor and/or RCC
Azerbaijan	✓	✓
PRC	✓	✓
Georgia	✓	
Kazakhstan	✓	✓
Kyrgyz Republic	✓	
Mongolia		
Pakistan	✓	✓
Tajikistan	✓	✓
Turkmenistan	✓	✓
Uzbekistan	✓	✓

CITA 2030 MTR



Global and Regional Developments

- COVID-19 pandemic
- Russia's war in Ukraine
- Rising protectionism and weakening of the rules-based international trade system
- Intensification of climate change impacts
- Rapid advancement of digital and green technologies

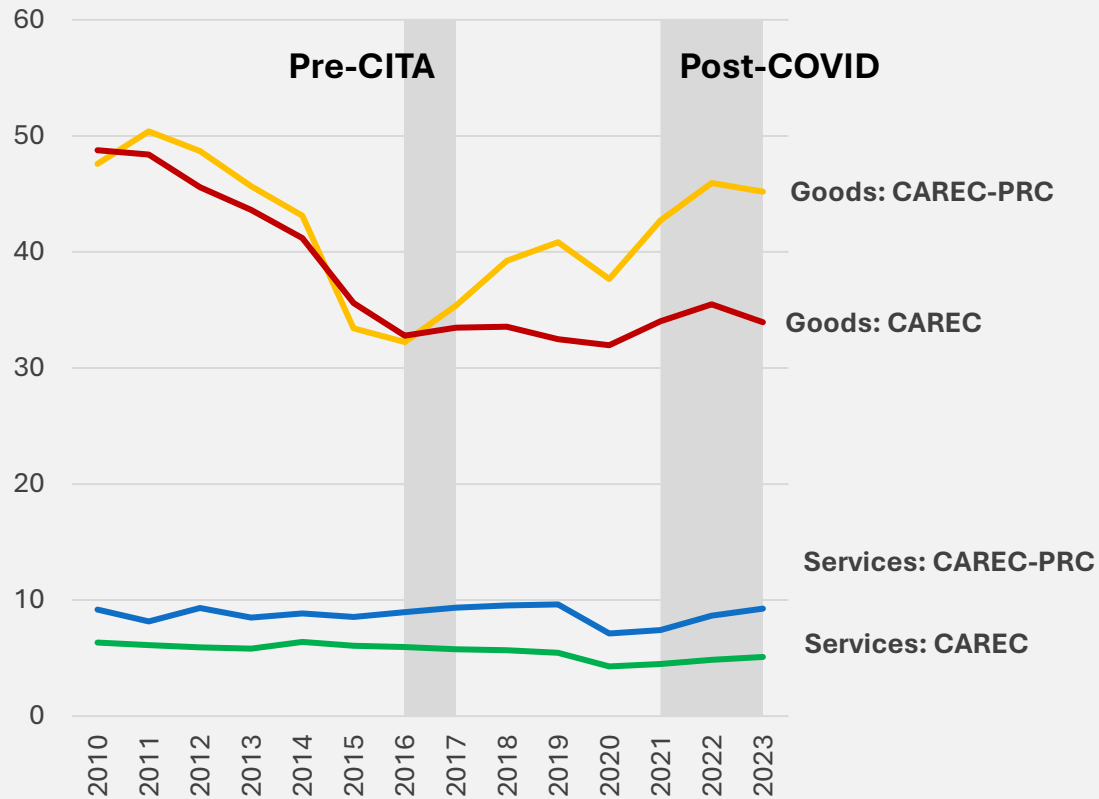
Implications for CITA 2030



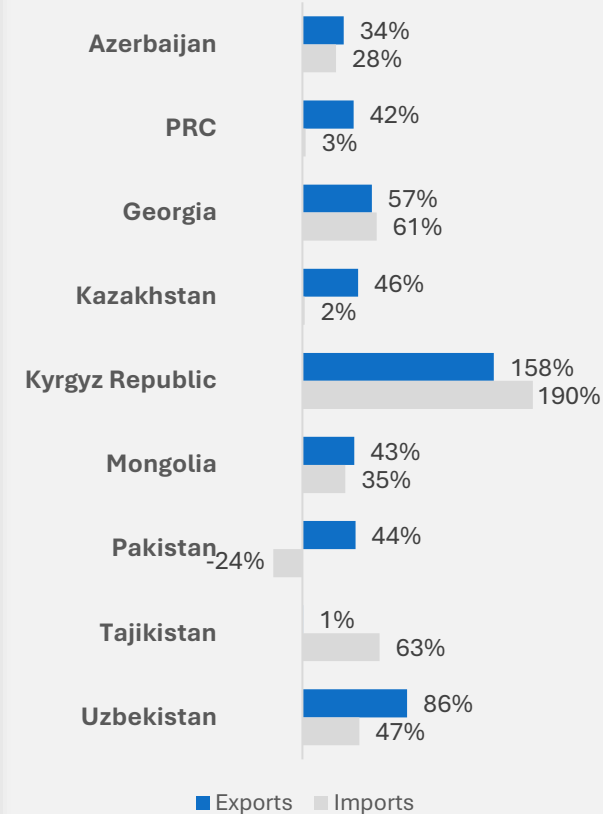
- Stronger focus on **digital trade**, including paperless trade and e-commerce
- Increased urgency to enhance **supply chain resilience**, including through the diversification of trade routes and export/import markets
- Greater emphasis on the promotion and facilitation of **cross-border investment**, especially in high-tech and green industries
- Increased need to **strengthen institutions** for cross-border trade and investment

Trade Contribution to CAREC Economies

Trade in Goods and Services as % of GDP



Growth of Trade in Services



Trade in goods' share in GDP improved since 2016.

Trade in services contribution was constant, dropped slightly after 2019 due to the pandemic

Trade in goods is expanding faster than trade in services but the growth varies by country

Notes: CAREC excludes AFG. Georgia joined CAREC in 2016. Data excludes informal trade.

Source: World Bank. World Development Indicator

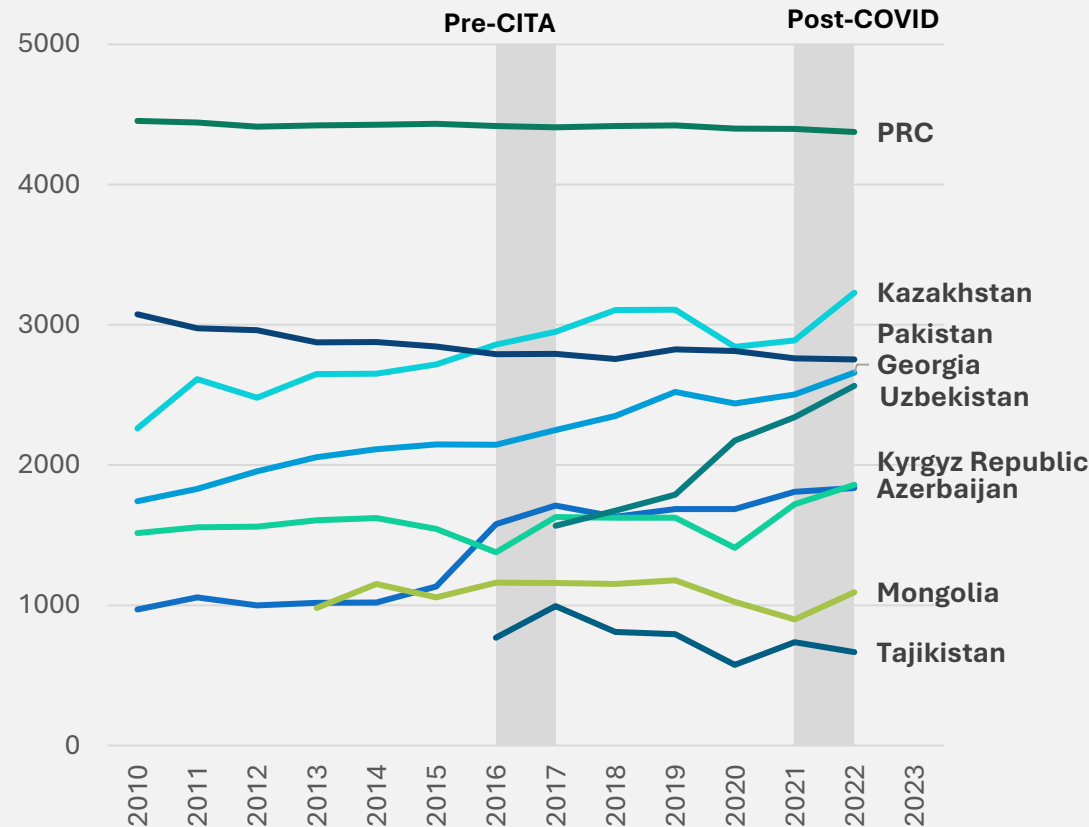
Source: CAREC Central Banks

Export Diversification

Fuels and manufactures dominate export shares.

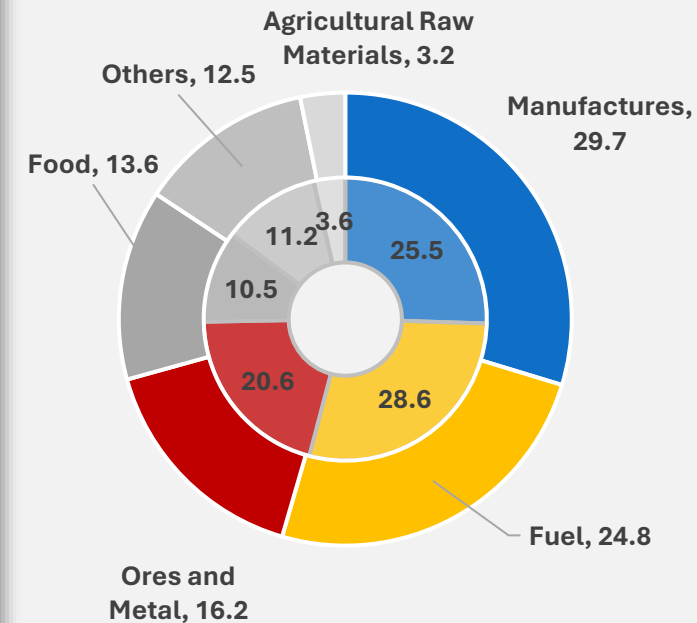
Georgia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan are exporting more than 2,500 commodity lines. PRC's basket is most diversified

Number of Exported HS 6-Digit Products



Source: WITS, accessed 10 March 2025

CAREC Exports 2017 (inner) and 2023 (outer)



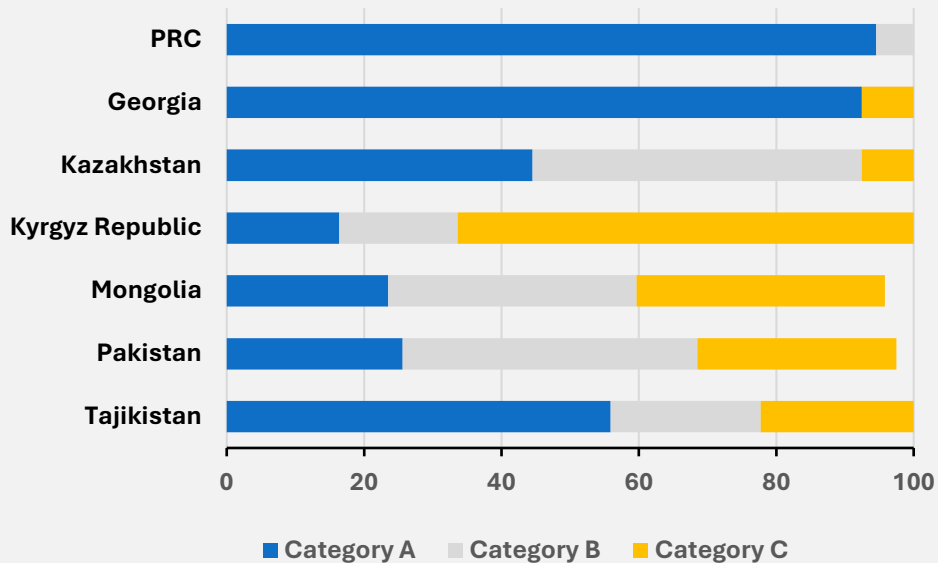
Note: CAREC excludes PRC, and Turkmenistan for which no data is available.

Source: World Development Indicators, accessed April 2025

Trade Facilitation

TFA Implementation in CAREC Countries

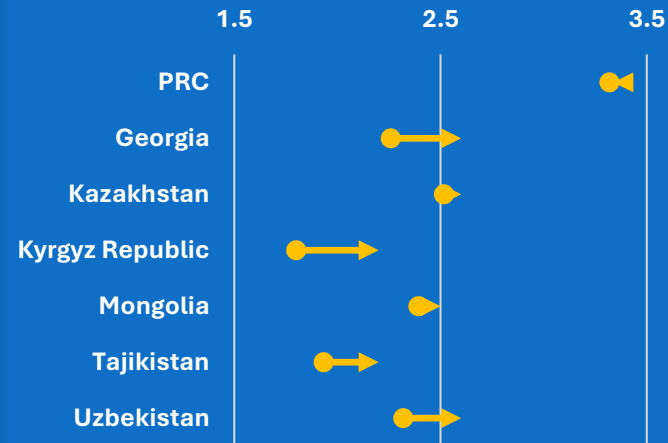
(as of 25 May 2025)



Source: Trade Facilitation Agreement database.
<https://www.tfadatabase.org/en> (accessed 25 May 2025)

LPI: Customs score

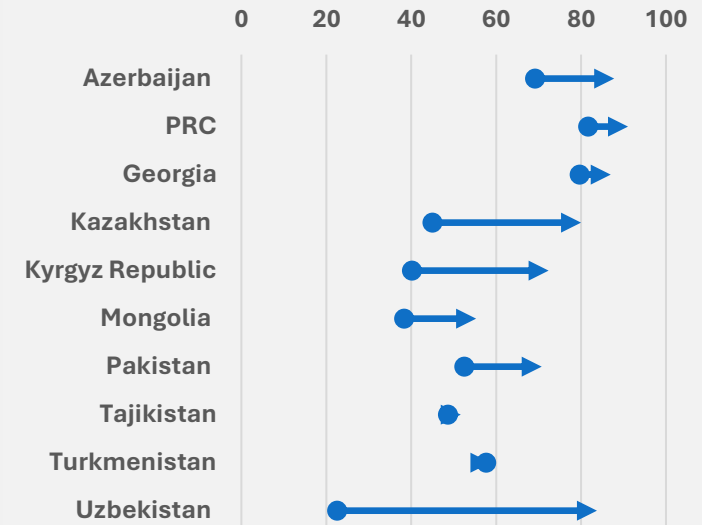
2016 and 2023



Source: Logistics Performance Index database.
<https://lpi.worldbank.org/index.php/international>
 (accessed 18 May 2025)

Trade Facilitation Scores

2017 and 2023



Note: The scores cover the indicators for Transparency, Formalities, Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation, Paperless Trade, Cross-Border Paperless Trade, Transit Facilitation, and Agricultural Trade Facilitation. The figures for Georgia are for 2019 and 2023. The data for Turkmenistan are only available for 2023.
 Source: UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation database. <https://www.unftsurvey.org/economy> (accessed 18 May 2025) and CITA 2030 MTR team's computations.

CITA 2030 Key Achievements

Trade policy and participation in international agreements

- WTO accession and TFA implementation
- Customs transit facilitation
- Development of e-commerce and digital trade
- Expansion of trade in services, particularly tourism-related services

Investment projects that facilitate trade

- Modernization of customs, BCPs, national single windows, SPS infrastructure
- Development of economic corridors and special economic zones

Strengthening institutions and partnerships

- Establishment of trade sector bodies and coordination with development partners
- Capacity building for free trade agreements
- Knowledge products
- CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring
- Engagement with the private sector

Stakeholder Feedback: Preliminary Summary

Points of Consensus

CITA 2030

- remains **highly relevant**; its activities have been useful to CAREC countries
- has helped CAREC countries take **concrete steps to implement commitments** to freer cross-border movement of goods, services, people, capital, and information
- can play an important role in helping CAREC countries **respond to emerging challenges and opportunities** relating to cross-border trade and investment

Points of Difference

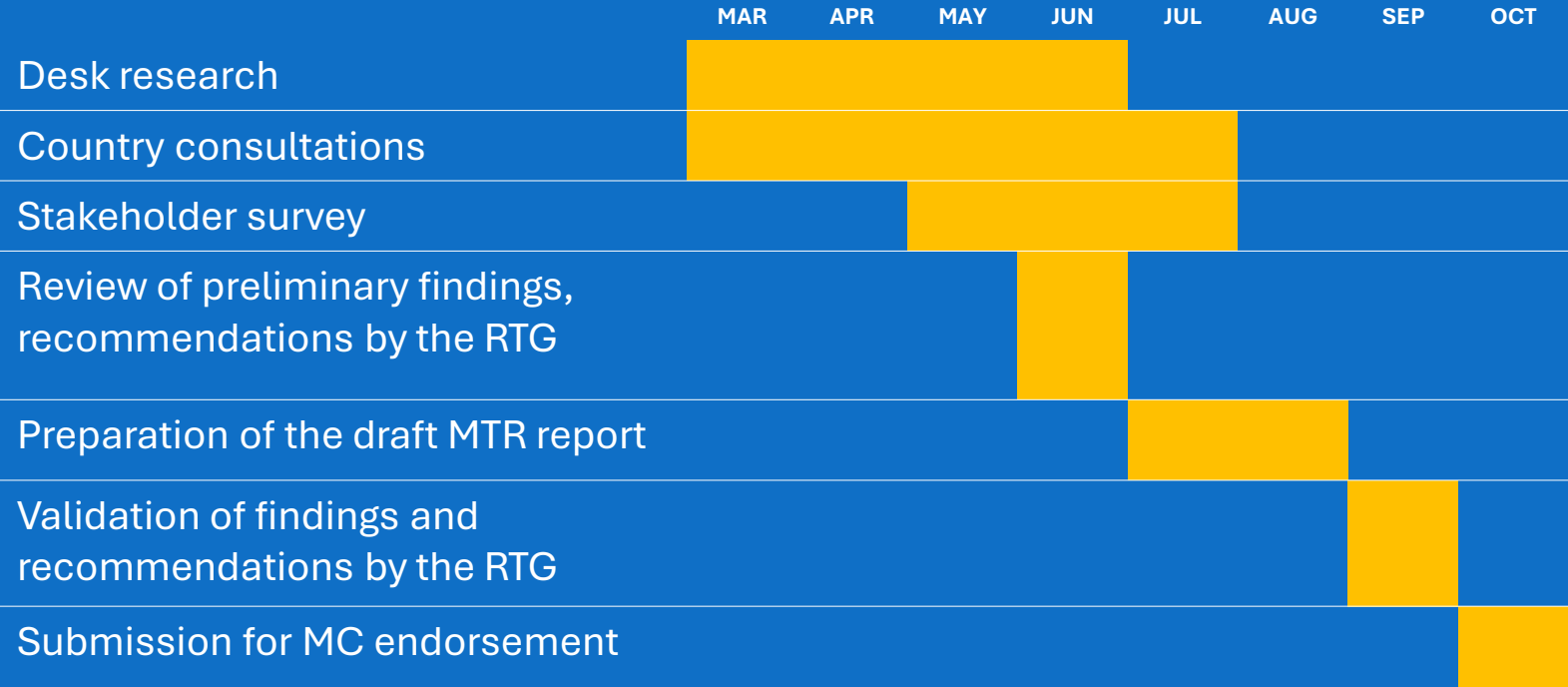
- The appropriate scope of CITA 2030 activities—whether to narrow the current range or keep it broad
- Which aspects of digital and green trade should be prioritized in implementation
- Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation framework and the institutional mechanism
- Private sector involvement in the implementation of CITA 2030

Preliminary Recommendations

- Consider **longer-term and programmatic support** for CITA implementation through investment projects
 - **Actionable or granular indicators and specific targets** are needed to effectively assess and improve CITA's effectiveness
 - Align CITA implementation more closely with other **CAREC sectoral and thematic strategies**—notably by designing and undertaking projects and activities that pursue common priorities and generate synergies
- Promote **alignment with international agreements and good practices** in trade policies and trade facilitation measures
 - Consider establishing or **convening an experts' group** to discuss specific topics on cross border investments, standards, and digital trade.
 - **Private sector engagement** should be further strengthened

Timeline

Timeline



Z

Thank you!