



CAREC National Focal Points Strategic Planning Meeting

# GREEN AND DIGITAL CAREC

5-7 March 2025, ADB Headquarters, Manila





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ADB

# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review, Implementation Action Plan, and Next Steps

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# CAREC 2030 Strategy



**Economic and Financial Stability**



**Trade, Tourism and Economic Corridors**



**Infrastructure and Economic Connectivity**

## Operational Clusters



**Agriculture and Water**



**Human Development**



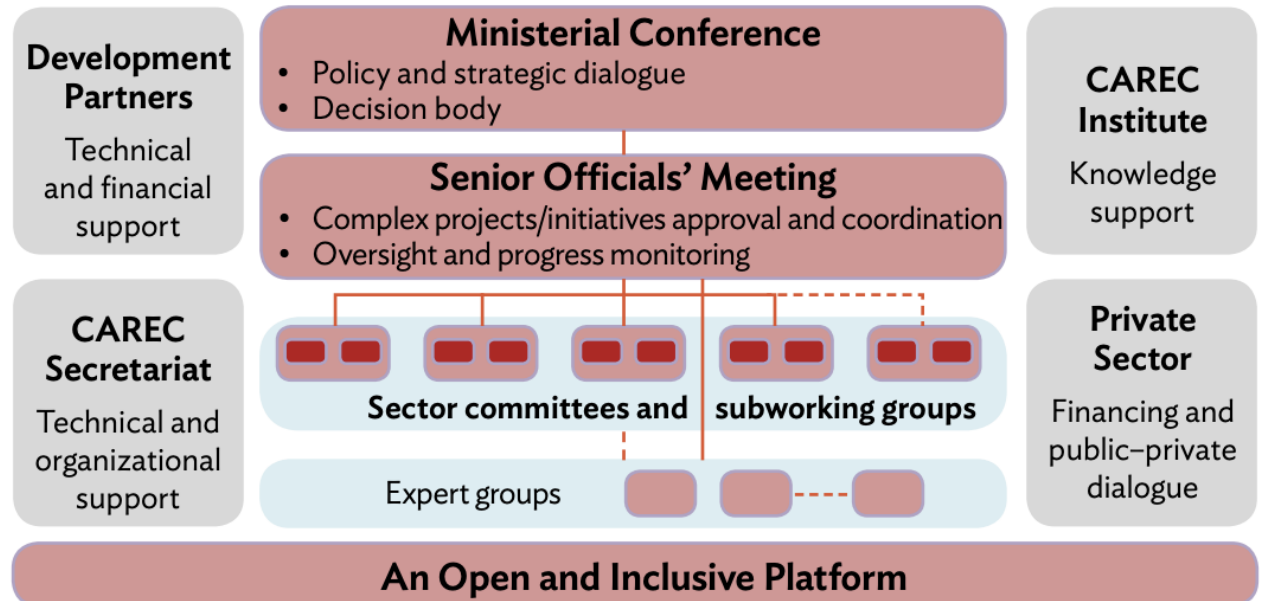
**Cross-cutting Themes**

- Climate Change
- Digital/ICT
- Gender

Anchored on **Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects** vision

Aligns with national strategies and supports new global agenda—UN Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**) and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (**COP**)

## Institutional Framework

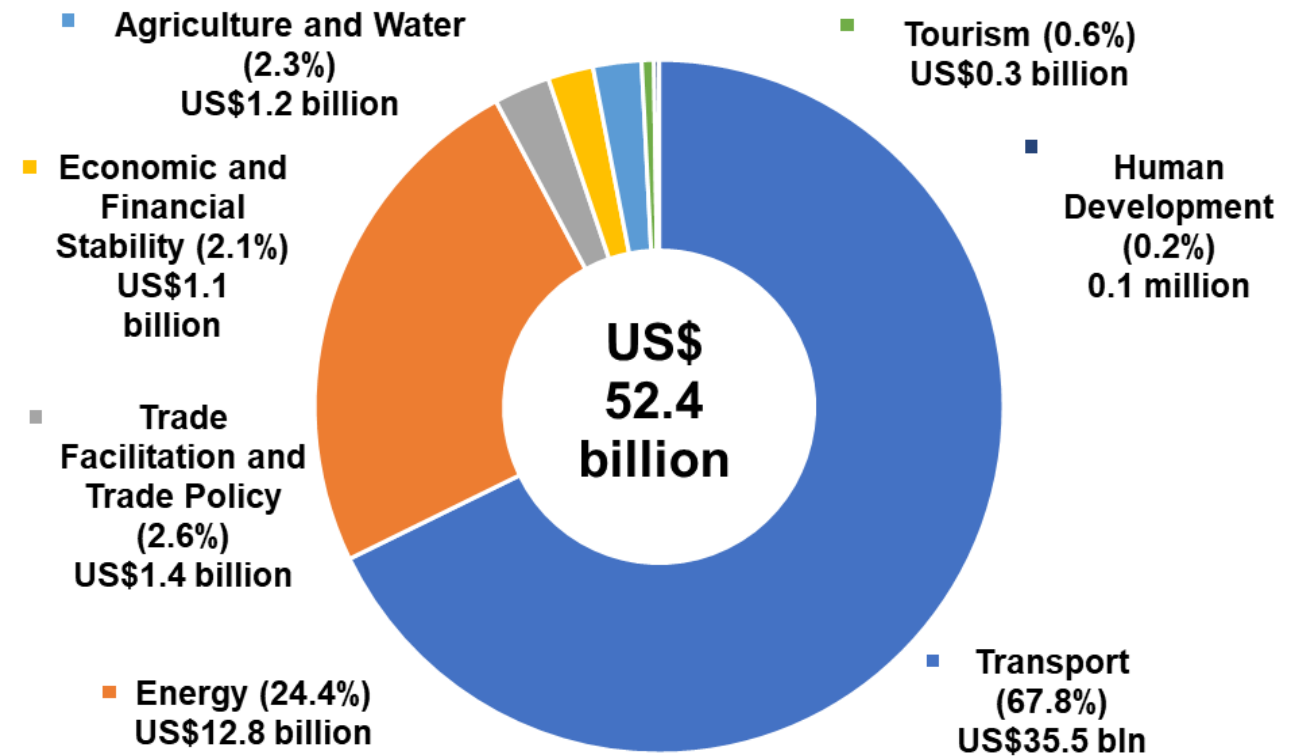




# CAREC Investment Portfolio

- **\$52.4\*** billion CAREC cumulative investment projects (2001–2024)
- **125** ongoing projects, mostly in transport, energy, and trade sectors, diversifying into new areas
- Over **\$18.4 billion** financed by ADB, **\$24 billion** by other development partners, and **\$10 billion** from CAREC governments
- **42** active CAREC TAs including TRTAs supported by ADB (\$59 million)

## CAREC Investment Projects By sector, 2001–2024\*



\*Preliminary figures, for updating with development partners

# Context and Operating Environment

## CAREC Program has evolved...

- **Membership:** from 5 countries to 11 countries (comprising 1.7 billion people)
- **Expanded coverage:** from 3 sectors to 5 clusters [9+ sectors] and 3 cross-cutting themes
- **Increased and more inclusive participation in CAREC events:** For example, from 900 (2017) to 1,700 (2023) with small traders, women entrepreneurs, startups, university students, border communities

## ... amid Global and Regional Landscape and Emerging Challenges

- Responding to diversity
- Building resilience to future pandemics
- Navigating geopolitical developments
- Addressing climate change

**Prioritizing country driven activities, pursuing regional impact and innovation, strengthening partnerships, and adopting robust monitoring and evaluation will help build a more **prosperous, integrated and resilient future for the CAREC region.****

# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## Key Messages

- CAREC 2030 sectors and themes remain **relevant** and **aligned** with member countries' development objectives
- CAREC **investments**—\$8 billion (2018-2023) in transport and energy infrastructure—enhance regional connectivity, promote energy security, facilitate trade, build capacities
- CAREC agenda to advance **regional public goods** (health security, climate change response, disaster risk preparedness, food security, etc)
- CAREC countries and development partners value the **unique** platform the CAREC Program provides to foster inclusive development



# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 10-Point Recommendations

- 1 Streamline Scope for Enhancing Impact of CAREC Initiatives
- 2 Review and Recalibrate Sector Strategies
- 3 Pursue Regional Public Goods (RPGs) to Address Common Issues
- 4 Reinvigorate Regional Ownership for Sustaining Outcomes
- 5 Promote Integrated and Climate-Smart Development
- 6 Strengthen Engagement with Development Partners and Private Sector
- 7 Improve Program Effectiveness and Monitoring
- 8 Strengthen the CAREC Secretariat
- 9 Enhance CAREC Institute's role as a Strategic Partner for Knowledge-Driven Development
- 10 Prepare the Midterm Review Implementation Action Plan



# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 1. Streamline Scope for Enhancing Impact of CAREC Initiatives

### Strategic

A more targeted approach

Focus on projects with highest impacts and benefits

### Operational

Establish a **multi-year rolling pipeline** for regional programs, projects, and technical assistance, that are demand-driven and linked with country programming

Subregional cooperation (2+X principle)

Cross-sectoral initiatives for greater specialization and in-depth engagement

Regular needs assessment

### Progress and Plans

- CWRD Joint Programming Workshop (Jan 2025) and incorporating CAREC proposals in ADB Country Programming (ongoing)
- Institutional mechanism for consultation with NFPs (planned)
- CWRD-Transport Sector Retreat (Feb 2025) discuss transport, ECD, trade
- Joint/Parallel Meetings e.g., Health and Climate Change WG in April 2025
- Development Effectiveness Review (DEfR) (ongoing)
- CAREC sector focals meetings led by NFPs (e.g., KGZ, PAK)





# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 2. Review and Recalibrate Sector Strategies

### Strategic

Aligning sector priorities with evolving regional developmental context

Mainstreaming climate change actions in CAREC sector work

### Operational

Conduct Midterm Review of sector strategies:

- CAREC Transport Strategy 2030
- CAREC Energy Strategy 2030
- CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda (CITA) 2030
- CAREC Digital Strategy 2030

### Progress

MTR of Transport Strategy initiated (MON in Feb 2025), country consultations planned

MTR of CITA 2030 and Digital Strategy to be aligned and conducted jointly with the CTS MTR to the extent possible

Draft MTRs to be presented in sector meetings in May/June 2025



# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 3. Pursue Regional Public Goods to Address Common Issues

### Strategic

Promote RPGs in infrastructure, economic corridors, and trade facilitation, health and communicable diseases prevention, environmental sustainability and climate change, water resources management, and sustainable energy transition

### Operational

Develop a multi-hazard early warning system for detecting, forecasting, and communicating multiple hazards

Pursue cross-border sustainable energy projects and transboundary water management systems.

### Progress and Plans

CAREC Climate Change Action Plan 2025-2027 (ongoing)

TA and support for feasibility study of Caspian Green Energy Corridor Project (ongoing)

Pre-feasibility studies in 3 priority water projects in Aral Sea Basin and Bahri Tojik (ongoing)

Glaciers to Farm Program launch



# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 4. Reinvigorate Regional Ownership for Sustaining Outcomes

Strategic	Operational	Progress
<p>Foster a national sense of ownership and sustainability of TA and investment projects</p> <p>Adopt strategic approach for optimal outcomes</p> <p>Tailor the program to address each country's unique needs, priorities</p>	<p>Promote transparent and open communication among regional stakeholders and between the Secretariat and country stakeholders</p> <p>Tell impact stories and tangible benefits of projects</p> <p>Increase engagement with businesses, CSOs and local communities</p>	<p>Quarterly meeting with NFPs or as needed (proposed)</p> <p>CAREC Project Dashboard and online CAREC calendar (developed)</p> <p>CAREC Impact Stories translated in Russian/ local languages</p> <p>CAREC Business or SME Forum in KGZ (planned)</p>

# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 5. Promote Integrated and Climate-Smart Development

Strategic	Operational	Progress
<p>Align with and develop synergies with regional and global initiatives to pursue regional actions for climate solutions.</p> <p>Mainstream climate change actions across CAREC sectors</p>	<p>Integrate CAREC climate change, digitalization, and trade initiatives</p> <p>Enhance capacity and coordination e.g., the water-energy-agriculture nexus or a "One-Health" approach</p> <p>Promote innovative and green finance initiatives</p> <p>Ensure food security</p>	<p>COP29 Declaration on CAREC Partnership for Climate, Innovation and Trade (workshop planned)</p> <p>CAREC TAs supporting climate-smart agriculture, regional disaster risk transfer solutions, and capital markets under implementation</p>



# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 6. Strengthen Engagement with Development Partners and Private Sector

Strategic	Operational	Progress
<p>Enhance role of development partners (DP) and the private sector in delivering complex, multi-country CAREC projects</p>	<p>Create multi-DP teams</p> <p>Mobilize additional or co-financing with DPs and explore innovative financing options to support critical regional infrastructure projects</p> <p>Leverage private sector expertise and investment through Public-Private Partnerships</p> <p>Undertake impact assessment, design a robust, DP-led project monitoring and evaluation framework</p>	<p>Organize DP Forum (planned back-to-back with SOM)</p> <p>Feature CAREC projects in Impact Stories and events (planned)</p> <p>Strengthen non-sovereign regional operations in ADB (ongoing)</p>



# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 7. Improve Program Effectiveness and Monitoring

Strategic	Operational	Progress
<p>Improve transparency and inform evidence-based decision-making</p> <p>Enhance return on investment and economic dividends</p>	<p>Develop operational dashboard to track project progress, monitor key performance indicators (KPIs)</p> <p>Strengthen project cost-benefit analysis and evaluation</p> <p>Involve stakeholders and establish feedback loop with periodic progress review, M&amp;E reporting</p> <p>Enhance stakeholder awareness, South-south knowledge-sharing</p>	<p>Review of CAREC Program Results Framework (ongoing)</p> <p>Pre-feasibility or scoping studies to prepare bankable CAREC projects (ongoing)</p> <p>Reporting mechanism for CAREC interventions/TAs through resident missions</p> <p>Prepare Communications Plan (ongoing)</p>

# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 8. Strengthen the CAREC Secretariat

### Strategic

Foster national-level engagement and development of regional projects

### Operational

Engage closely with Country Directors, country management teams (CMTs) and Sector Groups

Strengthen field process of CAREC Secretariat, enhance role of Advisors/RCCs and coordination with RMs

Establish multi-donor trust fund

### Progress

CAREC Secretariat assigned to CMTs and sectors joining CPM missions

2 RCI staff in ADB resident mission

CSPPF established in Nov 2024, call for proposals in March 2025



# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 9. Enhance CAREC Institute's role as a Strategic Partner for Knowledge-Driven Development

### Strategic

CAREC Institute as key partner in regional economic cooperation

### Operational

Implement the CI Revitalization Plan

Role in CCAP, MTR of CAREC Transport Strategy identifying knowledge and capacity building needs

### Progress

Ongoing consultation and preparation of CI Strategy

CI participation at CTS MTR consultation in Beijing (March 2025)



# CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review

## 10. Prepare MTR Implementation Action Plan

### Strategic

Conduct broad-based consultation with DPs and member countries

### Operational

Prepare a comprehensive action plan with defined timelines, deliverables and accountabilities to implement the recommendations outlined in the MTR

Organize a special strategic brainstorming session for NFPs

### Progress

Draft Implementation Action Plan (under preparation)

NFP Strategic Planning Meeting (March 2025)

# Timeline and Approach

**Guidance NFP Strategic Planning Meeting (March 2025)**

**Circulation of Draft Implementation Action Plan (IAP) 2025-2030 (April - May 2025)**

- **Midterm review of sectoral strategies (transport, digital, trade and energy)**
- **Review and update Program Results Framework (PRF) with measurable performance indicators**
- **Developing a regional project pipeline**

**Consultation with Country Stakeholders and Development Partners (April - June 2025)**

**MTR Implementation Action Plan and MTRs of transport, trade and digital for SOM consideration (July 2025)**

**Final Action Plan and Updates presented at 24<sup>th</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference (Sep 2025)**