



# Session 1: Overview of CARTIF Concept

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# Agenda

- Project Approach, Methodology and Outputs
- Principles of the CARTIF concept
- Framework Agreement
  - A. Initial Protocols
  - B. Additional Protocols
- Negotiating Structure

# Project Approach, Methodology and Outputs

- Comprehensive and well-organized approach
- 3 Key Phases
  - CARTIF concept
  - CARTIF draft text
  - CAREC decision on launching negotiations
- Methodology
  - ADB's assistance in producing supporting document with thematic international expertise
  - Discussions with direct involvement of senior and subject-matter officials of CAREC countries in a structured dialogue

# Principles of the CARTIF Concept

- CARTIF is open for every CAREC Country, no one is left behind.
- Any CAREC country can join anytime based on the rules of the agreement
- CARTIF creates a foundation for selective integration by the CAREC countries according to their needs and commitments;
- CARTIF is a progressive agreement allowing the gradual deep and comprehensive integration.

# Framework Agreement

- A solid basis for moving CITA 2030 forward and bringing trade and investment cooperation to the level of partnership
- Scope allows all the CAREC countries to join taking into consideration CAREC countries' international commitments
- Upon the CAREC countries' decision to join the Framework Agreement and A. Initial Protocols in the beginning or at a later stage
- Countries will have right to follow the negotiations as observers

# Framework Agreement

- Establish the partnership
- Define objectives, principles and scope
- Define Administration, Organization and Institutional Mechanisms
  - Establish institutional set-up, including cooperation with private sector and civil society, and general provisions;
  - Establish dispute settlement mechanism

# A. Initial Protocols

- Initial protocols will be an integral part of the initial negotiation package
  - Concepts of the A. Initial Protocols developed by the international experts tailored to the CAREC needs and capacities
  - Scopes of the A. Initial Protocols allow all the CAREC countries to join taking into consideration CAREC country's international commitments;
- I. Trade Facilitation, including Transit, Customs Cooperation and Mutual Administrative Assistance;
  - II. Non-Tariff Measures (SPS and TBT)
  - III. Trade in Services related cooperation, including in Transport, Tourism, Services incidental to Agriculture, Telecommunications, Financial Services
  - IV. Services Domestic Regulation
  - V. Digital Trade and E-Commerce
  - VI. Investment Facilitation
  - VII. Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes

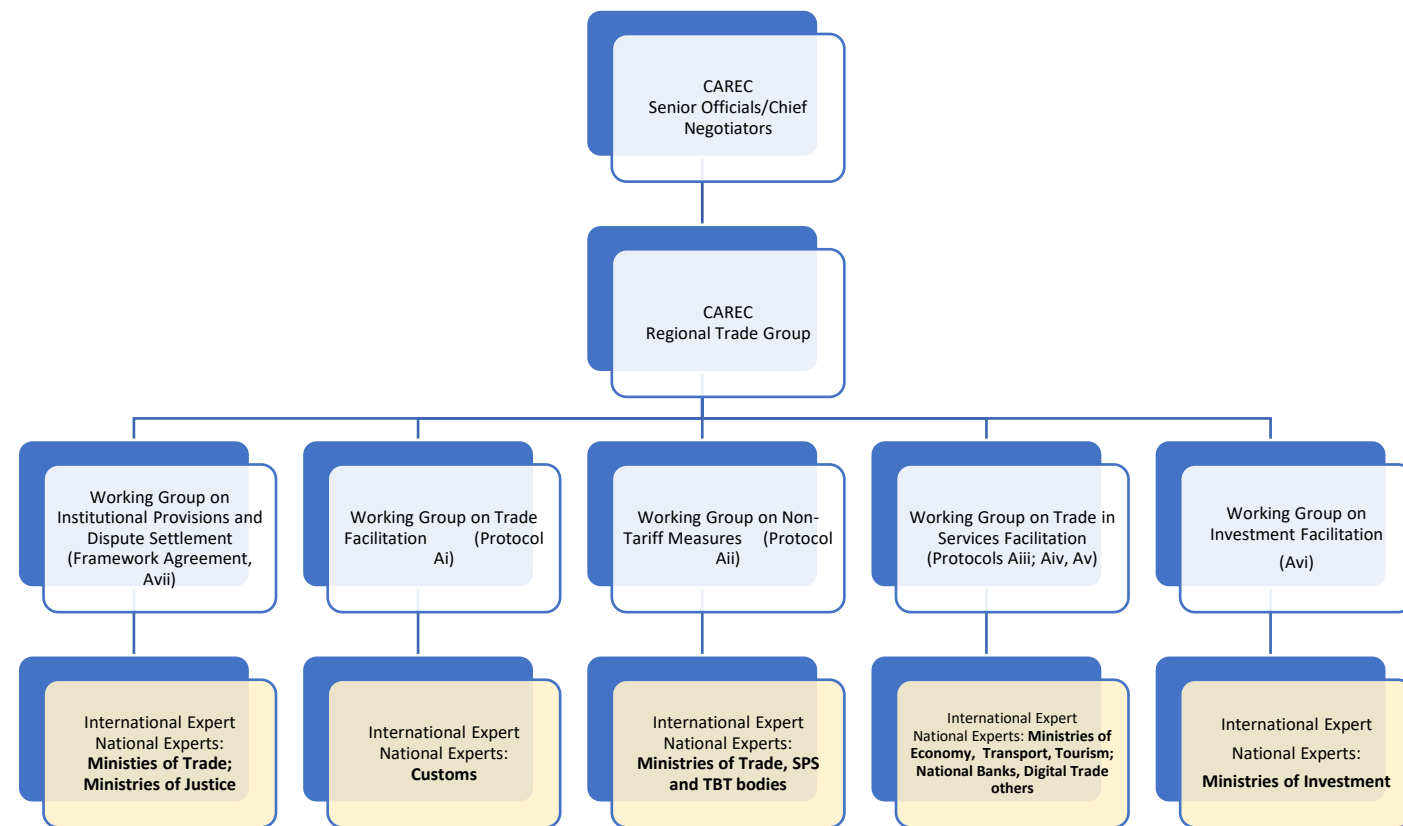
## B. Additional Protocols

- Additional protocols will be negotiated in the second phase in case of interest of the CAREC countries.
  - The scope of B. Additional Protocols will go beyond facilitation and allow interested CAREC countries to negotiate trade liberalization provisions and deeper and comprehensive integration.
  - The B. Additional Protocols will be open to other CAREC countries to join at a later stage if and when their commitments allow and interest is expressed on the terms to be stipulated by the protocols.
- I. Trade in Goods and Tariffs
  - II. Rules of Origin
  - III. Trade Remedies
  - IV. Trade in Services Market Access Commitments
  - V. Intellectual Property Rights
  - VI. Competition
  - VII. Government Procurement
  - VIII. Trade and Sustainable Development
  - IX. Other issues to be defined by the parties



# Negotiating Structure

- After the approval of a concept by the CAREC countries, the international experts will draft the respective chapters/protocols
- facilitate initial discussions on the draft texts before the launch of the official negotiations among the CAREC countries.
- The discussions on the draft concept and the draft texts thereafter will take place in Working Groups (WGs)
- If a CAREC country expresses interest to join the discussions on the draft concept and the draft text thereafter it should nominate relevant experts for the participation in each WG.
- Meetings of the WGs will be held in hybrid format and will be organized and coordinated by the ADB.



Thank You! Questions?