



Sector-Specific Initiatives Under Trade, Tourism and ECD Cluster- Trade

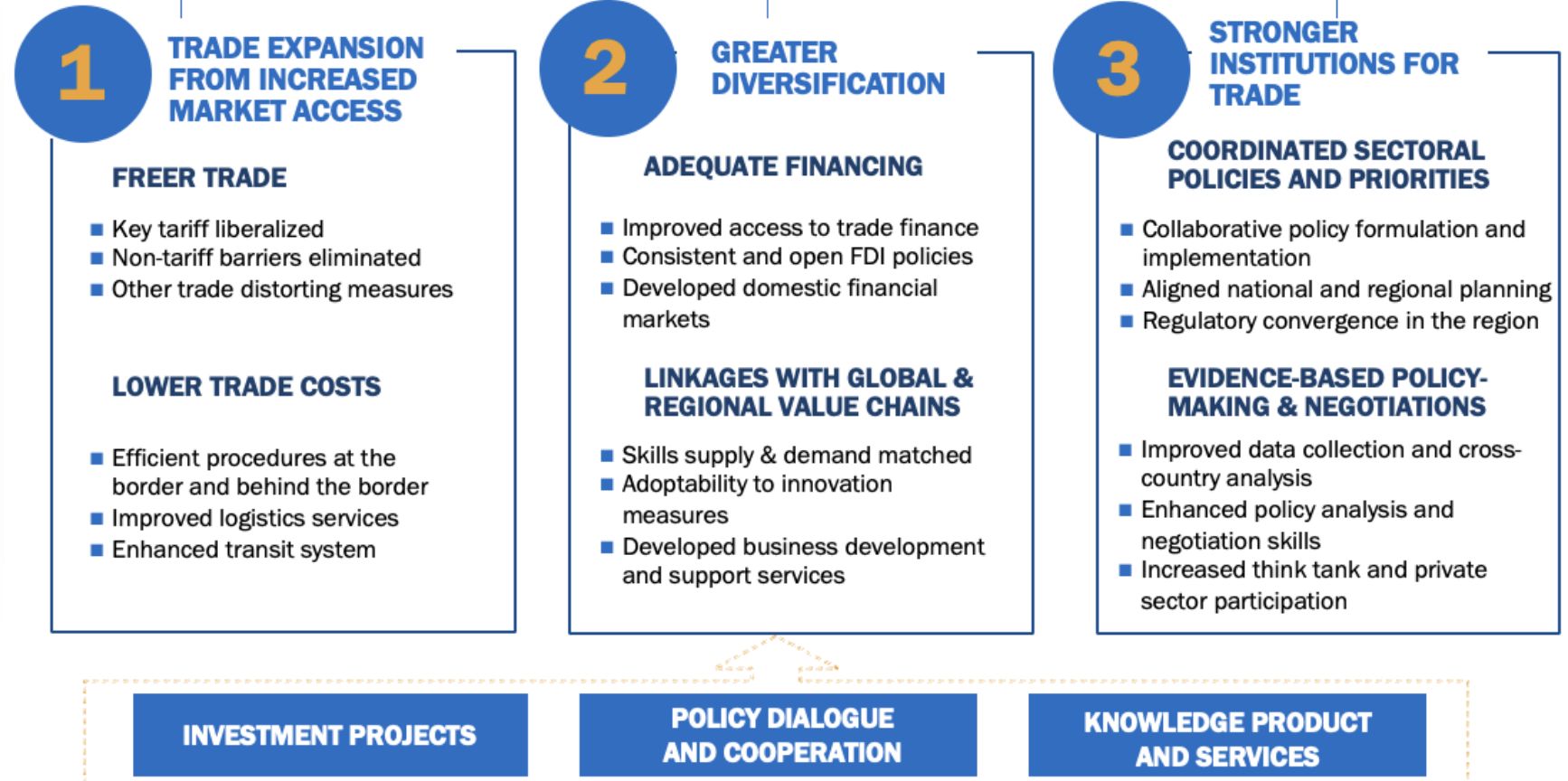
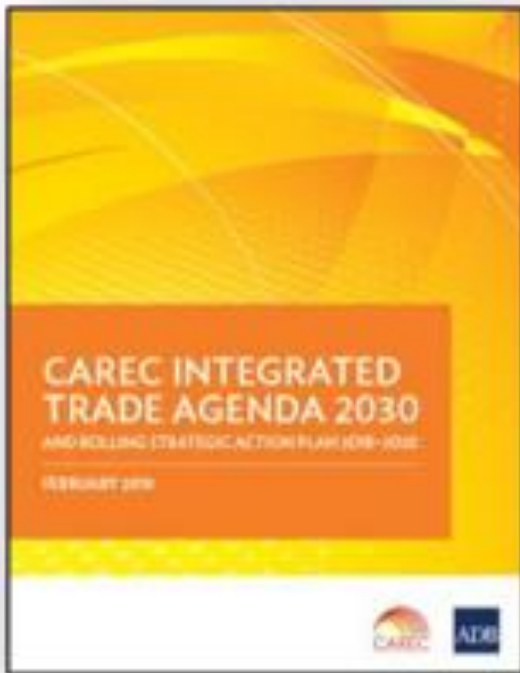
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Senior Officials' Meeting
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Astana, Kazakhstan

CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030

CAREC COUNTRIES ARE MORE INTEGRATED IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY



I. Sector Status Updates

1

Trade Expansion from Increased Market Access

- **Accession** to the World Trade Organization (AZE, TKM, UZB) and high implementation rate of WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement
- **Knowledge-sharing** and high-level dialogues (Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum in Samarkand)
- Supporting cross-border paperless trade, link with **global platforms** (ePhyto Hub), and **authorized economic cooperation** programs
- Implementation of ongoing **investment projects** (Regional Improvement of Border Services and National Single Window, Upgrade of SPS Measures, Developing Economic Cooperation Zone) and approval of new project (MON: Border Efficiency for Sustainable Trade)
- Piloting **CAREC Advanced Transit System** and Information Common Exchange (CATS/ICE)



I. Sector Status Updates

2

Greater Diversification

*Accelerating **digital trade** and **supporting e-commerce***

- 2nd **CAREC Digital Trade Forum** (April 2024, Astana) and Digital Trade Fair (Astana Hub)
- Adoption of **electronic trade documents and signatures** (pilot for GEO and PRC on UN Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records; study for AZE on e-commerce legislation;)
- **Pilot** Initiatives (GEO: use of AI in trade; MON: blockchain/DLT for e-certificate of origin)



- SMEs access to **trade** and **supply chain finance** (ADB's Trade and Supply Chain Finance Program supporting \$1.7 billion trade transactions in CAREC countries).
- Working with other sectors/themes (transport, tourism, economic corridor development, Digital/ICT)
- Strengthen **business-SME linkages** (CAREC Innovation Week and Digital Economy Tour in Hangzhou)

I. Sector Status Updates

3

Stronger Institutions for Trade

- Capacity building on trade/FTA **negotiation skills** and **policy analysis** for trade officials
- Over 10 regional events, 8 national trainings/workshops (June 2023—April 2024) with over 500 participants from CAREC DMCs and stakeholders
- CAREC **Trade Information Portal** provides the trade statistics at country and regional level
- CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (**CPMM**)
- Knowledge-sharing platforms on trade with **CAREC Institute**
- **CAREC Trade Insights and News** provides quarterly updates on CAREC trade activities.





II. Key Priorities or Plans for 2024-2025

- CITA Rolling Strategic Action Plan (RSAP) 2024-2026
- Preparation of new CAREC trade TA
- Mainstreaming climate change actions in CAREC trade
- CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review
- Upcoming events:
 - WTO-ADB-ITC Second Central Asia Trade Policy Forum (3-5 June, Almaty)
 - CAREC Trade and Investment Facilitation Workshop (June, Istanbul)
 - 23rd CAREC Customs Cooperation Committee Meeting (August, Astana)
 - CAREC session at sideline of 3rd Global Digital Trade Expo (September, Hangzhou)

III. For SOM Guidance or Endorsement

- For information:
 - (i) CAREC Trade Sector Report
 - (ii) ADB and WTO signed MOU at sideline of ADB Annual Meeting in May 2024 and discussed RCI, trade and climate cooperation under the CAREC Program
- For endorsement and additional proposals: CITA RSAP 2024-2026
- For guidance: Mainstreaming of climate change in trade sector work; CAREC 2030 Midterm Review

