



Proposed Theme, Key Deliverables and Structure of the 23rd CAREC Ministerial Conference

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**Senior Officials' Meeting
30-31 May 2024
Astana, Kazakhstan**

Proposed Theme:

Building a More Integrated and Resilient CAREC Region

Key Deliverables for 2024

Strengthening CAREC 2030 Implementation

- ❑ Finalization of *CAREC 2030 Strategy* Midterm Review
- ❑ Preparation for CAREC's 25th year in 2026
- ❑ Developing new generation of regional and climate-focused projects pipeline
 - Proposed CAREC Infrastructure Investment Forum in October/November 2024 in Astana
 - CAREC Corridor 2 (Middle Corridor) Development Strategy
 - Identification of flagship regional projects for key sectors
 - Improved CAREC-wide project database for conceptualization, mobilizing financing, and monitoring

Implementing the CAREC Climate Change Vision

- ❑ Endorsement of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan and Mainstreaming Climate Change Actions in CAREC Sectors
- ❑ Launch of the CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund
- ❑ CAREC side event or joint proposal for COP 29 under Presidency of Azerbaijan

Proposed Structure for the 23rd CAREC Ministerial Conference

8 November 2024,
Astana

- Welcome Address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- Opening Remarks by the ADB President
- Regional Economic Outlook presentation by Senior Representative, IMF
- Report on the Progress in CAREC 2030 Implementation and key deliverables by ADB/CAREC Secretariat
- Endorsement of the *CAREC Strategy 2030 Midterm Review*
- Endorsement of the Joint Ministerial Statement
- Remarks by the Government of Kyrgyz Republic as incoming CAREC Country Chair in 2025
- Side events: CAREC Infrastructure Investment Forum, Launch/Signing ceremonies for CSPPF and/or other CAREC projects

Potential MC-23 side events

CAREC Infrastructure Investment Forum

Potential Themes

- Regional Connectivity esp. in CAREC Corridor 2
- Greener Transport Systems
- Water and Energy Nexus (e.g., hydropower generation and water resources management)
- Technology, Innovation, and Digital Connectivity
- Mobilizing Financing including through PPP, blended and other innovative financing

Participants

- CAREC members to bring project proposal ideas
- CAREC development partners to discuss financing options
- Other donors and private sector (investors, builders and consultancy) from CAREC and other regions
- Project officers to share green regional projects

Launch of CSPPF and Signing Ceremonies



Enhancing Stakeholders Communications

CAREC Brochures / Impact Stories

Various communication tools and platforms



What is CAREC?

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Program is a partnership of five countries and development partners working together to promote development through cooperation, leading to accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction. It is guided by the overarching vision of "Good Neighbors, Good Partners, and Good Prospects."

The program is a proactive facilitator of practical, results-based regional projects, and policy initiatives critical to sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity in the region. Since its inception in 2001 and as of December 2023, CAREC has mobilized \$51.02 billion in investments that have helped establish multimodal transportation networks, increased energy trade and security, facilitated free movement of people and freight, and laid the groundwork for economic corridor development.

CAREC in Uzbekistan

As one of only two double-landlocked countries in the world, Uzbekistan must ship its exports over long distances through Kazakhstan in the north and northwest, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan in the east and southeast, Turkmenistan in the southwest, and Afghanistan in the south.

The CAREC Program helps address Uzbekistan's logistical challenges by developing regional transport corridors. These corridors enable the country to derive greater benefit from the wealth that lies under its valleys, plains, and mountain ranges—in the form of gold, copper, uranium, natural gas, and oil. Uzbekistan is also one of the world's biggest producers of cotton.

Uzbekistan is committed to upgrading its roads that are part of CAREC's six priority corridors, and is helping Afghanistan by sharing its expertise in railway modernization. Uzbekistan is also exploring the possibility of establishing a stable regional energy grid—encompassing a vast area stretching from the People's Republic of China in the east to Azerbaijan in the west, and from Kazakhstan in the north to Pakistan's warm-water ports in the south.



Second Central Asia Economic Cooperation Corridor 2 Road Investment Program

The CAREC Corridor 2 Road Investment Program, financed by the ADB, aimed to improve Uzbekistan's domestic and international trade by reconstructing approximately 236 km of the Uzbekistan section of the highway. The program, with a total investment of US\$500 million, focused on enhancing connectivity between Uzbekistan and its neighboring countries, including Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. By upgrading the road infrastructure, the program sought to facilitate trade growth and strengthen regional economic cooperation.

Project Impacts

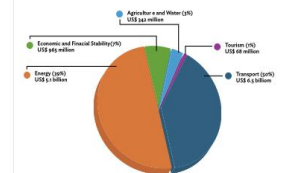
Increased domestic and international trade:

- Traffic volume on the Kamchik bypass increased by 123% from 2011 to 2021
- Trade increased by 30% between Fergana Valley regions and the rest of Uzbekistan
- The reconstructed 58 km section of the A373 highway contributed to improving connectivity and trade with neighboring countries, such as Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan
- Two roadside marketplaces for women and two sanitary facilities were constructed and maintained
- The project triggered the development of roadside private businesses, with 12 roadside cafes and more than 30 roadside marketplaces established in 2016–2021
- Travel time from Tashkent to the Kyrgyzstan border reduced by 60%
- Travel time from Tashkent to the Osh border reduced to 4 hours in 2021 (Program target was 5 hours)

Investments

As of 2023, more than \$13 billion USD was invested across 40 CAREC-related projects in Uzbekistan. Of these investments, about \$4.53 billion (35.1%) is in the transport sector, covering 23 projects. ADB financed/co-financed 16 of these projects.

Among CAREC members, Uzbekistan is the biggest recipient of CAREC-related investments, and is also the biggest recipient of energy-related investments in CAREC.



Call to Action

22nd CAREC Ministerial Conference: Reinventing Regional Cooperation in Times of Change



Video Reels

