

# FIRST MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE (CAREC WGCC)

29 May 2024, 14:15–18:00 (Astana time)

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

### I. Introduction

1. The first in-person meeting of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC), established in April 2024 to support the implementation of the [Regional Action on Climate Change: a Vision for CAREC](#) (CAREC Climate Change Vision), was held on 29 May 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan (see Appendix 1). The CAREC WGCC is supported by the regional technical assistance (TA) project “Supporting Regional Actions to Address Climate Change under the CAREC Program”. Officials from CAREC member countries and representatives from development partners participated in the meeting as members of the WGCC (see Appendix 2).

2. Mr. Nurlan Kurmalaev, Vice Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Kazakhstan, welcomed participants to the meeting and highlighted the importance of discussing collective climate change actions for CAREC, given how pervasive climate change impacts are throughout the region. He informed that Kazakhstan has adopted a strategy for carbon neutrality until 2060 and updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), setting an emissions reduction target of 15% by 2030. Kazakhstan’s focus is on the most vulnerable sectors (water, agriculture, forestry, and disaster risk reduction). Mr. Kurmalaev also informed on the President’s initiative to hold a regional climate summit in 2026 in Almaty under the auspices of the UN. Mr. Kurmalaev concluded that the CAREC platform should be used to discuss and identify joint actions for future CAREC climate action. At the same time, the forthcoming Conference of the Parties (COP29) presents an excellent opportunity for future actions in the region.

3. Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department, ADB, welcomed participants and stressed how climate change continues to heavily impact CAREC countries, such as the floods in Kazakhstan in 2024 (100,000 people affected) and in Pakistan in 2022 (\$30 billion in damages). Mr. Zhukov noted the recent progress made in the establishment of the CAREC WGCC and emphasized the need for unified climate action efforts in the CAREC region, following the adoption of the CAREC Climate Change Vision at the Ministerial Conference held in 2023 in Tbilisi. He informed that ADB’s ambition is to ramp up climate finance with \$100 billion in investments by 2030, as announced by ADB’s President in 2022. Lastly, Mr. Zhukov encouraged CAREC members to coordinate their efforts on climate action and discuss concrete joint proposals for the upcoming COP29 to be held on 11–22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Mr. Zhukov

4. Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration Unit, Central and West Asia Department, ADB, outlined the highlights of the first virtual WGCC meeting, stressed the need to align national and regional climate policies and strategies, and mentioned the importance of working at the regional level and the need for close cooperation between CAREC members. She highlighted that adaptation investments should not be seen as a burden but rather an investment in the future. Ms. Sabyrova noted that the development of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan is the immediate focus of the WGCC and should follow a practical, step-by-step approach. She encouraged CAREC sector leads and WGCC members to identify specific actions and projects to integrate climate action across CAREC sectors.

### II. Highlights of the Meeting

*Session 1. Mainstreaming Climate Change across CAREC 2030’s operational areas*

5. Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), ADB, introduced Session 1 of the meeting by providing an overview of the steps leading to the development of the CAREC Climate Chance Action Plan (AP), the proposed next WGCC meetings (a virtual one in early July, and in-person meeting in early September), and the six (6) proposed areas for climate change integration that were identified in the first virtual WGCC meeting. Mr. Rosbach stressed the need to go into further details and spell out adaptation and mitigation actions for these areas via identification of concrete regional projects and initiatives.

6. Mr. Oleg Samukhin, Senior Transport Specialist, ADB, expressed concerns about how the transport sector might be affected by climate change, particularly rail and road infrastructure in vulnerable areas of the region, and the need for adaptation actions. Mr. Samukhin provided examples of projects (border crossing points) affected by heavy rainfall and floods and the need to reconsider the standard design to climate-proof border infrastructure. Similarly, Mr. Samukhin underscored the need for mitigation measures to decarbonize transport (e.g., increasing efficiency, reducing emissions and air pollution, transport strategies, smart mobility, and integration of mass transport). Lastly, Mr. Samukhin mentioned that various concessional funds are available, but accessing them requires smart and meticulous project scoping, design and preparation. DPs can assist CAREC countries throughout these stages with technical assistance support.

7. Mr. Martin Jaer, Energy Specialist, ADB, briefed participants on the emissions from heating and electricity needs and the challenges of integrating intermittent renewable energy into the grid. He highlighted the need for improved connectivity and a more flexible power grid, focusing on both physical infrastructure and better legislation and dynamic tariff system (examples were provided of how CAREC countries could contribute grid stabilization and reintegration). Mr. Jaer mentioned the need to focus on reintegration and an agile and flexible grid via better regional collaboration. Among planned activities in the energy sector, CAREC is organizing a study tour in Denmark, where energy sector representatives from CAREC countries will learn about best practices on grid integration in Europe's Nordic region, which has advanced experience in this area.

8. Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB, discussed the strong linkage between the priorities under the CAREC Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 and the CAREC Climate Change Vision, particularly those that aim to decongest, diversify, and digitalize trade. She shared ongoing initiatives to accelerate digital trade and new ADB operations that will help improve resilience to climate-related hazards and support climate adaptation for sustainable border operations and trade. Several trade policy dialogues have been undertaken and among the focus areas in mainstreaming climate action in trade sector include CAREC response to emerging measures such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), exploring opportunities in critical minerals, efforts to decarbonize consistent with the CAREC Transport Strategy 2030, and rapid assessment on the impact of the recent floods on Kazakhstan's trade infrastructure and possible risk mitigation measures.

9. Mr. Kristian Rosbach informed WGCC members of the forthcoming CAREC Water Pillar WG meeting, to be held in Istanbul on 17-18 June 2024, where the next steps include identifying three water projects and a regional water-energy modeling to be completed by 2025. Such projects could have the potential to be included in the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan.

10. Ms. Kirthi Ramesh, Social Sector Specialist, ADB, concluded Session 1 with a presentation on the linkages between climate change and health risks and associated costs, highlighting that only 0.5% of total funding in the region is spent on health and climate change. Ms. Ramesh mentioned the importance of a CAREC regional study focusing on climate change threats to human health, particularly on the most vulnerable groups, while also advocating for regional cooperation, knowledge exchange, intersectoral coordination, and the need to establish national focal points for climate change and health. Ms. Ramesh also stressed the importance of building climate change

capacity of the health workforce, the need to improve data collection, the establishment of early warning systems and preparedness for heatwaves, and the need to upgrade health facilities in border areas via climate resilient and energy efficient measures.

### *Session 2. Financing Regional Climate Projects*

11. Mr. Faig Mutallimov, Head of Ecological Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan, provided an overview of Azerbaijan's plans for COP29, starting from the works of the COP28 Presidencies' Troika (United Arab Emirates, Azerbaijan, and Brazil) to translate the COP28 ambitions into action, to raise the climate finance floor, to move forward on mitigation actions, and to have a practical roadmap for a global climate fund and private sector partnering. Mr. Mutallimov stressed the importance of the Paris Agreement Article 6 concerning the carbon market and crediting mechanism and the submissions under the New Collective Quantified Goals (NCQGs) on Climate Finance to increase support for developing countries' emissions reductions and enhance their climate resilience. He also noted the required submission of the first biennial transparency report (BTR), which should be completed by or during the COP29, the importance of the global goal on adaptation, the enhanced transparency framework, implementation of a just transition, and further operationalization of the loss and damage fund. Mr. Faig emphasized the need for an inclusive COP29 vision and noted that COP29 provides an opportunity to highlight progress on climate change implementation in the region. Lastly, Mr. Faig concluded that Azerbaijan stands ready to support CAREC at COP29.

12. Ms. Saule Sabieva, Director of the Department of Climate Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan stressed the importance of working together and discussing climate policy. Based on the first update of the NDCs, which are now being reviewed with the support of the NDC Partnership, Kazakhstan will need \$610 billion in climate finance by 2060 to meet commitments under low carbon neutrality pathways. The main challenges are in the energy sector, the high dependency on fossil fuels, and the climate impacts on agriculture. Concerning emissions trading, Ms. Sabieva noted that the market needs to be improved by recalculating benchmark risks for CBAM. She also stressed the importance of energy transition with a pipeline of projects (e.g., ADB support via the NDC roadmap on energy projects) and negotiations on market mechanisms. Lastly, Ms. Sabieva proposed to (i) develop a strategic document for CAREC to bring to the Regional Climate Summit that the President of Kazakhstan proposed to convene in 2026 under UN auspices; (ii) discuss common challenges and proposals that Kazakhstan could put forward in the UN Loss and Damage Fund on behalf of CAREC countries, and (iii) establish baselines for the development of a carbon market (carbon sequestration via soil restoration activities and afforestation).

13. Ms. Asel Madybayeva, Deputy Director, Climate Finance Center (CFC) under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic, provided an overview of the CFC as a model for climate finance coordination mechanism and a catalyst to attract finance, which could be replicated in the region. The CFC was established in 2017, and now the second phase of its functioning is undergoing. The CFC is currently being supported by ADB via capacity-strengthening activities for technical guidance on CFC's operations to ensure effective delivery of its roles and functions as well as further sustainability of its operations and developing an investment program to be presented by the CFC at COP29. The ADB's multi-country project proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) "From Glaciers to Farmers (G2F)", focusing on water, agriculture, and food security, is presented as an example of a regional project in the climate change area.

14. Dr. Urvashi Narain, Sustainable Development Program Leader for Central Asia, World Bank, highlighted the recent change in the Bank's mission statement, recognizing the need for complete alignment with climate change priorities. The World Bank considers the energy-water nexus particularly important in the region, stressing the need for sustainable transboundary water management. The World Bank is therefore actively supporting countries managing water and energy

resources jointly while increasing access to clean energy and water security through support for policy and institutional reforms and investment operations. Dr. Narain also mentioned ongoing World Bank initiatives, including (i) “Blueing the Caspian”, a project to reduce pollution and improve water management in the Caspian Sea, involving Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan; (ii) RESILAND CA+ regional project (Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) to mitigate the impacts of land degradation via landscape restoration; and (iii) the Central Asia Hydrometeorology Modernization Project to improve the accuracy of meteorological observations and sharing of climate data and related work, with a second phase under preparation.

15. Ms. Maira Karassayeva, Principal Banker, Green Economy Transition, provided an overview of EBRD policy and renewable energy financing in Kazakhstan, as well as on activities in Central Asia where EBRD has significant investments, with the largest share to the private sector (about 80%). In Kazakhstan, where the main challenge is a high-carbon intensity economy and energy accounting for 77% of national Green House Gas (GHGs), most investments are in renewable energy, with GCF co-finance. EBRD projects significantly impact the private sector in water and gas heating sectors in alignment with the Paris Agreement (e.g., in Kazakhstan, investments in power plants are hydrogen-ready to avoid lock-in stranded assets).

16. Mr. Maksim Surkov, Regional Manager, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), Mongolia, China, Korea, GCF, provided an overview of the GCF strategic plan for 2024-2027, how the Fund operates, and its focus and portfolio in the region. He informed on the mechanism and accreditation for accessing the Fund, and the plan to streamline objectives and modalities of the Fund and increase financing to projects in the region, to reach a balance between mitigation and adaptation investments.

17. Questions and answers followed session 1, while inputs and proposals for the CAREC Climate Change AP followed session 2. In both end-of-sessions, member countries and development partners provided information on their activities and presented their proposals and ideas for the AP. These are briefly summarized in the table below.

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Azerbaijan                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to balance regional actions with the needs of each country.</li> <li>• Countries need to have a shared position and outcomes for COP29.</li> <li>• CAREC should continue to serve as a platform for a common climate change position beyond COP29.</li> <li>• Need to support regional information sharing of hydrometeorological data and collaboration.</li> </ul>   |
| People’s Republic of China (PRC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No remarks</li> </ul>   |
| Georgia                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus of Georgia is the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) that is currently under development.</li> <li>• Georgia is interested in hearing the experiences of other countries in adaptation and related challenges, and CAREC can be a good platform for sharing information, experience, and best practices also in this area.</li> <li>• Measurement, Reporting, and Verification of emissions: Georgia is also interested in experiences of how it was developed and implemented in other countries.</li> </ul> |
| Kazakhstan                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for an integrated plan for CAREC countries on carbon market development.</li> <li>• Proposal to work on carbon sequestration projects and carbon markets for the agriculture sector and with linkages to food security.</li> </ul>   |

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| Kyrgyz Republic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided a briefing of activities on the NDC and climate finance needs (over \$37 billion, of which \$11 billion is from the national budget).</li> <li>• Increase of energy production is a priority for the country.</li> <li>• 5-year project for the sustainable development of mountain regions with the support of UNDP (5 Years of Action for the Development of Mountain Regions, whose road map is being developed)</li> </ul>  |
| Mongolia        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar issues were discussed in the case of Mongolia. Hope to share more good experiences in the future.</li> </ul>   |
| Pakistan        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge and data sharing is essential to learn experiences of other countries that can be adapted to the national and local context.</li> <li>• Vulnerability and diverse needs of countries should be considered.</li> <li>• More projects on adaptation are needed. The focus should be on NDCs and NAPs and related adaptation activities.</li> <li>• Asked to clarify who is the chair of the WGCC.</li> </ul>   |
| Tajikistan      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for urgent action on climate change coordination.</li> <li>• Interested in renewable energy integration, energy efficiency, and projects aimed at increasing the adaptive capacity of people because Tajikistan has limited capacity (both financial and technical).</li> <li>• Need to monitor Article 13 for the transparency framework under NDCs.</li> <li>• Committed to cooperation and achieving climate action objectives across energy, transport, water, and disaster risk management by adding disaster risk reduction and Early Warning Systems in plans and strategies.</li> <li>• Different adaptation needs of countries should be taken into consideration.</li> <li>• For projects with a regional focus, look at the examples of the successful World Bank's Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin (CAMP4ASB) and RESILAND.</li> <li>• Need to have concrete actions and activities for the AP.</li> <li>• Asked whether proposed CAREC water initiatives include irrigation.</li> </ul> |
| Turkmenistan    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevance of climate change impacts on critical sectors in Central Asian countries (transport, energy, trade).</li> <li>• Climate challenges need joint efforts and regional cooperation. Need to transfer climate technology and experience across the region.</li> <li>• Emphasis on global energy supply and energy security (ongoing regional projects such as EU-funded sustainable energy connectivity in Central Asia and UNDP/EU program for the promotion of sustainable energy).</li> <li>• Gradually implementing transition measures for a transition to cleaner energy and reduction of emissions via a range of measures. The construction of solar and wind power plants is being considered for renewable energy integration in the grid.</li> </ul>   |
| Uzbekistan      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Importance of identifying nationally designated authorities (NDAs) that can access climate finance and coordinate across funds. Support needed for accreditation process(es) and access to climate finance.</li> <li>• Uzbekistan established a Climate Council in the Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change; the council is under the President's auspices and has a coordinating function for climate action in the country.</li> <li>• Importance of discussing specific actions for Climate Change AP and appreciate collaboration with DPs.</li> </ul>   |
| AIIB            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water connectivity is a priority for AIIB.</li> <li>• Need to work on regional initiatives promoting regional cooperation. AIIB is open to collaboration as many efforts are needed (e.g., policy level).</li> </ul>   |

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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need to strengthen the WGCC and CAREC as a climate platform.</li> </ul>  |
| Eco CAREC  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared information on the eco CAREC climate information portal, which is now operational and available online on several climate topics.</li> <li>• Regional hub on climate transparency will conduct a series of webinars on Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) and meet global climate commitments.</li> <li>• Eco CAREC was selected as the sub-regional center for the support of the implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity to provide technical support to countries.</li> <li>• Reference to the 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Climate Change Conference hosted by CAREC, recently completed.</li> <li>• Eco CAREC is involved in the COP29 preparation and ready to cooperate with CAREC in this area.</li> </ul> |
| EBRD       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See para. on EBRD presentation.</li> </ul>  |
| FAO        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to raise the importance of food security (food systems account for one-third of global GHGs) and transboundary animal disease exacerbated by climate change, which could lead to food insecurity.</li> <li>• Land and water nexus is a crucial concern: unsustainable use of agricultural lands is a regional concern (example of Kazakhstan). FAO has three projects for sustainable use of land resources, with one just started (\$7 million GCF finance).</li> <li>• There are areas for synergies and collaboration, and FAO is ready to start pilot projects focusing on carbon financing, sustainable land use and smart agriculture practices.</li> </ul>  |
| GCF        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The health sector is underfunded in the region, so the approach should be via a network of partners.</li> <li>• Knowledge sharing is vital (e.g., decarbonization, “no harm”).</li> </ul>   |
| World Bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See para. on WB presentation.</li> </ul>  |

### III. Conclusion and Next Steps

18. Mr. Matteo Mode', Senior Climate Change Consultant, provided an overview of the timeline for developing the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan, including key milestones (Ministerial Conference and COP29) and immediate next steps (see Annex 3).

19. In her closing remarks, Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova emphasized the need to speak with one voice, maintain the current level of interaction, and have a regional focus. More specifically, Ms. Sabyrova summarized that the key points which emerged strongly from the discussion, as follows:

- a. More adaptation projects are needed.
- b. Climate and the water-energy nexus is a key area for climate action. The two sectors cannot be separated, and proposed activities should deal with this in an integrated manner.
- c. There is a proposal for carbon sequestration, land use, and carbon market, but a regional focus is needed beyond the single-country approach. The CAREC platform could serve as a regional portal for emissions transparency in relation to NDCs ambitions and carbon markets.
- d. Disaster Risk Management and Early Warning Systems are potential areas for regional engagement, together with knowledge and data sharing via the CAREC platform.

- e. The CAREC platform is an ideal vehicle for climate coordination among DPs and has the potential to unlock access to climate finance since CAREC is apolitical, and its main aim is the economic prosperity of the region.
- f. There is a need to define what to bring to COP29 jointly and it is important for WGCC members to provide suggestions on what CAREC should present at the climate conference; and
- g. The CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund (CSPPF), currently under preparation, will contribute to the implementation of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan by supporting the preparation of bankable regional projects focused on climate and sustainability objectives.

20. Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov concluded by thanking the government of Kazakhstan for hosting the meeting and the participants for their contributions and inputs in the discussion.

21. The following steps include (i) sharing summary of the meeting with WGCC members, (ii) preparing agenda and materials for the second WGCC virtual meeting to be held in the first week of July, (iii) coordinating with the Government of Azerbaijan to agree on the dates for the second in-person WGCC meeting to be held in Baku at the beginning of September, and prepare the materials for the meeting, including the draft CAREC Climate Change AP; (iv) further coordinate with WGCC members to receive concrete proposals and ideas to further develop the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change

### Draft Agenda

29 May 2024, Astana, Kazakhstan

#### Background and Objectives

As part of the implementation of the [Regional Action on Climate Change: a Vision for CAREC](#) (CAREC Climate Change Vision) endorsed at the 22<sup>nd</sup> CAREC Ministerial Conference on 30 November 2023 in Tbilisi, Georgia, the CAREC Secretariat is initiating the establishment of the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC). The CAREC WGCC will focus on aligning Paris Agreement-related activities in CAREC's priority clusters and cross-cutting thematic areas. It will serve as an essential platform to (i) coordinate and accelerate regional climate action in the CAREC region, (ii) share best practices and experiences on and identify priority sectors for climate change adaptation and mitigation, (iii) mobilize climate finance, and (iv) promote One CAREC voice on climate change agenda at global and regional forums such as the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) on 11–22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

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| 14:15–14:30 | <b>Registration</b>  |
| 14:30–14:35 | <b>Opening Remarks</b><br>Mr. Nurlan Kurmalaev, Vice Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan<br>Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), ADB  |
| 14:35–14:40 | <b>Introduction of Program</b><br>Objective: Overview of the outcomes of the first virtual meeting of the WG, an initial work plan for 2024/2025, and the goals and agenda for this WG meeting.<br><br>Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, ADB  |
| 14:40–15:50 | <b>Session 1. Mainstreaming Climate Change across CAREC 2030's operational areas</b><br>Objective: Align existing sectoral strategies and projects with the Paris Agreement and countries' climate commitments and identify potential climate-related regional projects and initiatives in the sectors.<br><br>Presentations by:<br>Mr. Oleg Samukhin, Senior Transport Specialist, ADB<br><br>Mr. Martin Jaer, Energy Specialist, ADB (virtual)<br><br>Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB<br><br>Ms. Kirthi Ramesh, Social Sector Specialist, ADB (virtual)<br><br><b>Q&amp;A (20 mins)</b> |
| 15:50–16:10 | <b>Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break</b>  |



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| 16:10–17:50 | <p><b>Session 2. Financing Regional Climate Projects</b><br/> <i>Objectives: Discussing Financing and Regional Climate Change Projects, including showcasing ongoing project examples of regional projects in the CAREC region.</i></p> <p><i>Presentations of Selective Projects by CAREC Member Countries and Development Partners</i><br/> Presentations by:<br/> Mr. Faig Mutallimov, Head of Ecological Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Azerbaijan</p> <p>Ms. Saule Sabieva, Director of the Department of Climate Policy and Green Technology, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources</p> <p>Ms. Asel Madybayeva, Deputy Director, Center for Climate Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic</p> <p>Ms. Urvashi Narain, Sustainable Development Program Leader for Central Asia, World Bank (virtual)</p> <p>Ms. Maira Karassayeva, Principal Banker, Green Economy Transition, EBRD</p> <p>Mr. Maksim Surkov, Regional Manager, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), Mongolia/China/Korea, Green Climate Fund</p> <p><b>Discussion on CAREC Climate Change Action Plan</b></p> |
| 17:50–18:00 | <p><b>Wrap-up</b><br/> <i>Objective: Summary of key takeaways from the discussions and next steps.</i></p> <p>Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, ADB</p>  |
| 19:30       | <p><b>Dinner Hosted by ADB</b></p>  |

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

29 May 2024, Astana, Kazakhstan

**A. COUNTRY DELEGATES****I. AZERBAIJAN**

1. Mr. Faig Mutallimov, Head of Ecological Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

**II. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

2. Mr. Xin Zhang, Chief Economist, National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC) (virtual)
3. Mr. Zeyu Zhou, Deputy Director, NNCSC (virtual)
4. Ms. Yuyi Wang, Director, Foreign Environmental and Cooperation Center (virtual)

**III. GEORGIA**

5. Ms. Mariam Alelishvili, Senior Specialist at the Sustainable Development Promotion Division of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
6. Mr. Kakha Lomashvili, Senior Specialist, Climate Change Division, Environment and of the Climate Change Department Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture

**IV. KAZAKHSTAN**

7. Mr. Nurlan Kurmalaev, Vice Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources, Kazakhstan
8. Ms. Saule Sabieva, Director of the Department of Climate Policy, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

**V. THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

9. Mr. Kuttubai Ismailov, Chief Expert of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision
10. Mr. Kanai Beishenaliev, Leading Expert of Air Protection Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision
11. Ms. Asel Madybaeva, Deputy Director, Center for Climate Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic

**VI. MONGOLIA**

12. Mr. Zorigt Amarsanaa, Climate Change Adaptation and Meteorology Policy Planning Specialist, Climate Change and Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (virtual)
11. Ms. Doljinsuren Myagmar, Sustainable Development Goals, Environmental Education Policy and Planning Senior Officer, Climate Change and Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (virtual)

**VII. PAKISTAN**

12. Mr. Imran Khan, Assistant Director, Ministry of Climate Change

## **VIII. TAJIKISTAN**

13. Mr. Abdullo Qurbonzoda, Director, Hydrometeorology Agency, Committee for Environmental Protection

14. Mr. Turakul Murodov, Deputy Head, Center for Implementation of Investment Projects, Committee for Environmental Protection

## **IX. TURKMENISTAN**

15. Mr. Allanazar Kajarov, Lead Specialist of State Environmental Expertise, Certification and Licensing Division, Department for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environmental Protection

16. Mr. Sahet Agajanov, Head of Department for Environmental Protection of Akhal province, Ministry of Environmental Protection

## **X. UZBEKISTAN**

17. Mr. Timur Sabitov, Head, Project Management Department, Center for Green Transformation and Adaptation to Climate Change, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change

## **B. DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS**

### **I. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK INSTITUTE**

18. Ms. Dina Azhgaliyeva, Senior Research Fellow

### **II. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK**

- 19. Mr. Yevgeniy Zhukov, Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD)
- 20. Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRC
- 21. Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), CWRC
- 22. Ms. Carmen Garcia Perez, Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC (virtual)
- 23. Ms. Dorothea Lazaro, Senior Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC
- 24. Mr. Oleg Samukhin, Senior Transport Specialist, SG-TRA
- 25. Ms. Kirthi Ramesh, Social Sector Specialist (virtual)
- 26. Mr. Kenzhekhan Abuov, Senior Project Officer, KARM
- 27. Ms. Irene de Roma, Senior Programs Officer, CWRC (virtual)
- 28. Mr. Matteo Mode, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Consultant
- 29. Mr. Ashraf Kuliyeu, Advisor (Azerbaijan)
- 30. Ms. Ekaterine Koroshinadze, Regional Cooperation Coordinator
- 31. Mr. Wasif Mullick, Advisor (Pakistan)
- 32. Mr. Diyar Tassym, Advisor (Kazakhstan)
- 33. Ms. Guldana Sadykova, Senior Regional Cooperation Coordinator
- 34. Mr. Meder Turgunbekov, Advisor (Kyrgyz Republic)
- 35. Ms. Aidana Berdybekova, Regional Cooperation Coordinator
- 36. Mr. Rustam Aminjanov, Advisor (Tajikistan)
- 37. Mr. Durdy Ilamanov, Advisor (Turkmenistan)
- 38. Ms. Jen Lapis, Consultant

### **III. ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK**

39. Mr. Xing Zhang, Senior Climate Policy Specialist

### **IV. British Embassy Astana**

40. Ms. Selena McGuinness, First Secretary Economics and Climate Change

### **V. CAREC INSTITUTE**

41. Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director 2

### **VI. ecoCAREC**

42. Mr. Dilovarsho Dustzoda, ReCATH Manager

### **VII. EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT**

43. Ms. Maira Karassayeva, Principal Banker, Green Economy Transition

### **VIII. GREEN CLIMATE FUND**

44. Mr. Maksim Surkov, Regional Manager, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA),  
Mongolia/China/Korea

### **IX. IsDB**

45. Mr. Habib Abubakar (virtual)

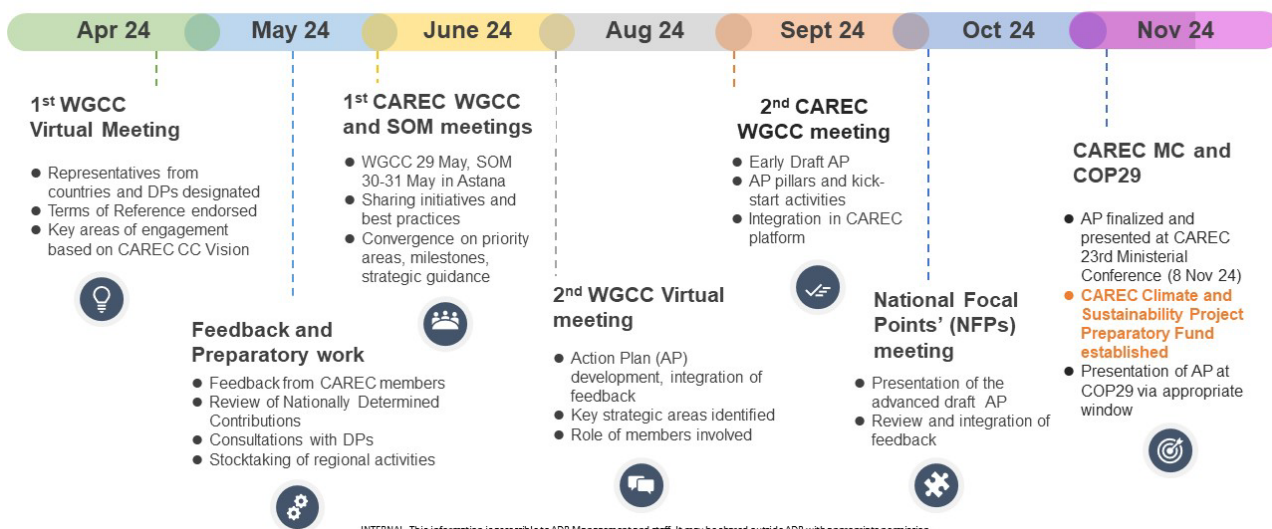
### **X. United Nations Development Programme**

46. Ms. Lejla Sadiku, Innovation Team Leader (virtual)

### **XI. WORLD BANK**

47. Dr. Urvashi Narain, Sustainable Development Program Leader for Central Asia (virtual)

# Timeline of CAREC Climate Change Action Plan



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## II. Key Priorities or Plans for 2024-2025

- ❑ **Exposure to climate and natural hazard risk will continue to be exacerbated by climate change**
- ❑ **Reducing vulnerability to climate risk and alignment with the Paris Agreement goals should remain key priorities for CAREC**
- ❑ **The formulation of the CAREC CC Action Plan (AP) is the immediate focus for the WG CC, based on the three main identified areas for intervention**
- ❑ **CAREC Climate Change Vision: provides the guiding framework for the AP**

| Phase and Task                              | Month |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
|---|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
|   | 1     | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> CAREC WGCC virtual meeting  |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| AP Preparatory work                         |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> CAREC WG CC , May 29 Astana |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| SOM - May 30-31                             |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Virtual meeting of CAREC WG CC              |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Early Draft AP development                  |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| CAREC WG CC meeting                         |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| National Focal Point (NFP) meeting          |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Finalisation of AP                          |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| CAREC Ministerial Conference                |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| COP29                                       |       |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |

**Action Plan Development - Draft Timeline**

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