

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

2–3 September 2024, Baku

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

I. Introduction

1. The second in-person meeting of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC) was held on 2–3 September 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan (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. Samad Bashirli, Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister of Economy and CAREC National Focal Point, highlighted in his opening remarks the Azerbaijan's efforts in promoting green growth, including through joint initiatives within the framework of COP29, which will be hosted in Baku between 11–22 November 2024. Mr. Bashirli thanked the CAREC Secretariat for organizing the event and underlined how the WGCC plays a crucial role in implementing the CAREC Climate Change Vision. Mr. Bashirli underlined that Azerbaijan stands ready to support the CAREC Program via its COP29 activities and emphasized that the Action Plan and the CAREC Climate and Sustainability Project Preparatory Fund (CSPPF) will be significant steps forward to address climate change impacts and concerns in the region.

3. Mr. Faig Mutallimov, Head of Ecological Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, welcomed the meetings' participants and remarked on the importance of regional cooperation for climate action. Mr. Mutallimov outlined the significance of the CCAP for climate adaptation, resilience, and mitigation projects and for fostering regional collaboration not only to reach climate targets but for the region to lead by example, as well as for the region's contribution to COP29. Mr. Mutallimov encouraged participants to work together to finalize the plan for effective climate action for a sustainable and resilient future in the region.

4. Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, ADB Regional Head for Regional Cooperation and Integration in the Central and West Asia Department, thanked the WGCC members for their active engagement and continued efforts in developing the CCAP. Ms. Sabyrova highlighted that the joint efforts of the WGCC show that CAREC indeed provides a regional platform to exchange knowledge and coordinate and build regional climate initiatives across CAREC sectors and development partners. Ms. Sabyrova introduced the objectives and agenda of the WGCC meeting, which included (i) presentation and discussion on the draft CCAP, including breakout sessions where participants were divided into four groups to define further and prioritize regional initiatives included in the four areas of the CCAP; (ii) a training workshop on carbon market opportunities and the Paris Agreement Article 6; (iii) two thematic sessions to discuss regional approaches to early warning systems and climate adaptation in mountainous areas; and (iv) a presentation from Azerbaijan on COP29 preparations, including proposed CAREC side events. Ms. Sabyrova concluded her introduction by urging participants to continue to contribute to finalizing the Climate Change Action Plan, which will be discussed at the CAREC National Focal Point on 15 October 2024 (virtual) and then presented for endorsement at the 23rd CAREC Ministerial Conference on 8 November in Astana, Kazakhstan, followed by a launch at COP29 on 14 November 2024.

II. Highlights of the Meeting

Session 1. CAREC Climate Change Action Plan

5. Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), ADB, introduced the first session, including the role and work of the CAREC climate change team. Mr. Rosbach urged participants to openly provide their feedback and views during the two-day meeting to ensure that countries' views are well reflected in the final CCAP.

6. Mr. Matteo Mode', Senior Climate Change Specialist (consultant), ADB, provided an overview of the draft CCAP following the sub-group virtual consultations and the virtual WGCC meeting between 1-8 July. Mr. Mode presented the CCAP structure, outcome, objectives, four thematic action areas, institutional, financial, and coordination arrangements, and some initial activities already under implementation. The presentation was followed by an open discussion to solicit and gather feedback from the WGCC on the draft CCAP on the following aspects: (i) agreement on proposed action areas and priority regional initiatives over the next three years, (ii) other regional initiatives and projects that should be included, (iii) main priorities of countries and sequencing regional initiatives, and (iv) and countries' interest in participating and leading activities.

7. **Tajikistan.** Mr. Abdullo Qurbonzoda, Director of the Hydrometeorology Agency, Committee for Environmental Protection (COEP), remarked that both Tajikistan COEP and Hydromet support the CCAP, recognizing the importance of sharing hydrometeorological data and information between the regional meteorological centers of Central Asia. He highlighted the importance of implementing the UN resolution to preserve glaciers and the related conference that will be held in Dushanbe in 2025. He invited all CAREC countries to the conference next year, noting that it will provide a global platform for jointly working on this critical issue.

8. Mr. Turakul Murodov, Deputy Head, Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects, Committee for Environmental Protection, noted that the CCAP is fully aligned with national priorities and strategies and asked for more information on the role of leading countries as well as the indicative starting dates of actions in the CCAP. Mr. Murodov also proposed sharing the draft CCAP with other departments and ministries within CAREC countries. Mr. Rosbach replied that the CCAP will start in 2025. On country leads, Mr. Rosbach clarified that the role is to coordinate among countries joining the initiative and reporting on progress to the WGCC, with the support of the CAREC Secretariat.

9. **Azerbaijan.** Mr. Mutallimov expressed broad support for the CCAP, specifically (i) climate risk assessment initiatives; (ii) the proposed CAREC multi-hazard early warning system (MHEWS), including a robust data sharing platform for real-time access to climate and hazard data, common early warning protocols, a regional training program for hydromet agencies, and integration of heatwaves in the MHEWS; and (iii) innovative disaster risk finance mechanisms such as cat bonds and insurance-linked securities. Mr. Mutallimov remarked that glaciers are also a concern for Azerbaijan and recommended that the initiative include the development of hydrological models that integrate glacier dynamics with water availability. Reservoir restoration and river basin management should also include monitoring and improving irrigation systems in the Kuru Aras River basin. Azerbaijan also recommended including actions for ecosystem-based adaptation, such as deforestation and land use management practices, while providing opportunities for developing ecotourism in mountainous areas to reduce vulnerabilities and increase the resilience of communities.

10. On decarbonization of the transport sector, Azerbaijan suggested identifying specific targets for emission reductions while promoting the integration of electric vehicles (EVs) and the development of EV charging infrastructure along the CAREC corridors. Azerbaijan expressed interest in being one of the country leads in integrating renewable energy, including exploring the potential for battery storage and hydropower. Azerbaijan recommended that the CCAP includes a

road map for carbon capture and storage (CCS) development, including feasibility studies for the most carbon-intensive sectors and a regulatory framework and financial initiatives to support the deployment of CCS projects. Azerbaijan suggested that the CAREC climate platform should (i) include a dedicated portal for sharing best practices and case studies on climate resilience, working with research institutions and think tanks; (ii) focus on training for carbon markets development and Article 6; and (iii) support the development of regional guidelines for green budgeting and training for climate responsive financial and monitoring framework.

11. Azerbaijan recommended that the CCAP puts in place a mechanism for prioritizing projects based on impact and alignment with national climate goals and that the CAREC platform provides technical assistance in project preparation for accessing international finance (e.g., GCF, AF), including a PPP component to attract private investments for climate projects. Mr. Mutallimov also noted the need for a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework with indicators for tracking and analyzing results and assessing CCAP implementation. The steering committee's role should be further clarified, including clearly delineating the responsibilities of the WGCC and the steering committee. Ms. Aygun Narimanova, Chief Advisor of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, asked if a country can submit one project proposal or if the proposal can be only regional. Ms. Rosbach noted that the focus should be regional, but it could also be a national project with benefits for other countries in the CAREC region.

12. **Kazakhstan.** Ms. Saule Sabiyeva, Director of the Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, expressed Kazakhstan's support for the draft CCAP, particularly the proposed activities to support the implementation of Article 6. She noted that Kazakhstan's priority concerning mitigation is carbon markets development, including emissions trading system (ETS), and requested to include this as part of the low carbon activities.

13. **Pakistan.** Mr. Muhammad Hamza Iqbal, Section Officer at the Ministry of Economic Affairs, expressed appreciation for the evolutionary process for the development of the CCAP and noted that it is aligned with national priorities. Pakistan sought clarifications on (i) what would be the nature of ADB funding to support the CCAP and how countries could benefit from potential climate finance and (ii) indicative dates for the start of projects (e.g., health activities start in 2027, which is the final year of the CCAP). Ms. Saima Saleh, Section Officer at the Ministry of Climate Change, suggested adding the ADB TA on strengthening women's resilience to heat stress in Asia and the Pacific, which is active in Pakistan and Tajikistan (under linkages and synergies in section 1.6).

14. Regarding funding, Mr. Rosbach responded that CAREC is a partnership between member countries and development partners (DPs), and, therefore, the funding is broad-based and not only driven by ADB. Several regional initiatives from various DPs have already worked towards the objectives and goals of the CCAP. However, there are currently gaps in finance for project preparation and feasibility studies. For this reason, ADB is preparing the CSPPF, with potential contributions from the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China. Mr. Rosbach also noted that, while it will not be possible to start all activities simultaneously, the proposed indicative start dates are for discussion (e.g., health could be advanced).

15. **Mongolia.** Ms. Doljinsuren Myagmar, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, supported the CCAP and requested that Mongolia be included in the MHEWS initiative. Mongolia finds the initiative for adaptation in mountainous areas relevant and expressed interest in being included as participating country. Mongolia finds carbon sequestration relevant and suggests including it in the initiative to exchange knowledge and best practices among CAREC countries. Carbon sequestration activities could include agriculture as part of the actions in the plan, including methodologies for emissions accounting by sector.

16. **Uzbekistan.** Mr. Timur Sabitov, Head of the Project Management Department, Centre for Green Transformation and Adaptation to Climate Change, Ministry of Ecology, Environmental Protection and Climate Change, noted that Uzbekistan has recently established a Presidential Climate Council that is under the direct responsibility of the President, aiming to leverage climate

change projects. He suggested close collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Investment Ministries for CCAP implementation.

17. **CAREC Institute (CI).** Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, CI’s Deputy Director, asked if the CCAP areas are based on current projects or whether new areas and projects can be added from the point of view of CI’s work. Mr. Rosbach explained that there is a combination of existing and new initiatives and that it would be helpful to hear suggestions on new ideas for climate-related regional research initiatives from CI.

18. **CAREC Eco.** Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, noted that CAREC Eco is ready to support the CAREC secretariat on knowledge exchange via its regional platform, which has already been established. CAREC Eco also supports the proposal to extend participation in the CAREC CC work to the Ministries of Finance and Economy through the steering committee. He also suggested including DPs in the steering committee to avoid overlap and maximize collaboration in implementing joint regional activities by several countries.

19. **UNDP.** Ms. Nataly Olofinskaya, Regional Adaptation Adviser, remarked that there should be an iterative process by the Secretariat and countries to update the CCAP, including timelines of the action areas and proposed initiatives. Coordinating national initiatives to avoid overlap should also be captured under Action Area 4.

Session 2: Interactive Group Discussions

20. Participants were divided into four groups according to the action areas of the CCAP, namely: (i) Climate Risk, Preparedness and Health; (ii) Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus; (iii) Low-Carbon Growth; and (iv) CAREC Climate Platform. The breakout session aimed to specifically focus on each action area, identify concrete actions and priorities, and propose some immediate next steps to start implementation. Each group was given hand-outs with questions that focused on overall feedback, priorities, outputs and objectives, challenges, involvement of stakeholders, and financing resources. Each group had a facilitator to keep the discussion on track and a rapporteur to report to the group in the second half of the session. The feedback is presented in the table below.

Action Area	Presented by	Feedback
Climate Risk, Preparedness, and Health	Faig Mutallimov (Azerbaijan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCAP activities are accepted with no further comments. • On MHEWS, the focus should be on hazard prevention. • On climate risk and resilient infrastructure building (mapping of hotspots), the initiative should also support transboundary projects. • Risk transfer solutions need to include capacity building and focus on developing a framework. • No feedback was provided on health and climate change because there were no representatives from health authorities (they would need to be involved for further elaboration). • On priorities and immediate steps, since the proposed MHEWS hub covers different countries, there will be a need to focus on effective data management, information exchange protocols, data sharing standards and formats (disaggregated and aggregated “data processing”), and technical assessment of the existing situation should be conducted in different regions/countries. Importance of countries to share data and commitment (no need for extra stations if data from nearby countries can be used) • Regarding the concept of a regional hub, detailed specifications will be needed, together with capacity-building and awareness-raising activities

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges include the availability of finance to establish and maintain the required network, political will share data at the regional level (e.g., Central Asia), as the platform could provide features to main stakeholders including hydromet, emergency situations departments, water resources, government committees, and DPs. Financial resources are essential, while technical assessment needs may differ depending on the country's needs.
Water-Energy-Food Security Nexus	Vladimir Grebnev (CAREC Eco)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No funding is indicated in the CCAP. The rehabilitation of deserts, degraded lands, and the Aral areas (from Turkmenistan) needs to be included. Importance of regional glaciers. Forestation of mountainous areas. Rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure (transport channels). Technical solutions for carbon sequestration. Challenges include collaboration between countries. Need for bilateral commissions including at least line ministries, agriculture and irrigation, ministry of finance and local.
Low-Carbon Growth	Timur Sabitov (Uzbekistan) and Anna Jarken (PRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to have more engagement via official channels and broader stakeholders' engagement. There must be consideration for various levels of infrastructure. There are different levels of countries' policies on carbon neutrality. There are two possible approaches to carbon: taxation and subsidies—a proposal to pilot carbon tax among Central Asian countries for specific areas. Need concrete projects on CBAM (CBAM export to EU, carbon tax, more details on CBAM regarding transport and agriculture). Uzbekistan has a PMU that is currently developing a project cycle to support the transition to CBAM. Suppliers should cooperate via a green energy supply platform, where countries can coordinate before exporting to Europe. Need to focus on a low-carbon development masterplan for cities and a baseline assessment to establish needs. Livestock management needs to focus on the review/change of sectoral strategies to include livestock carbon emissions. Knowledge exchange on green economy. Workshops on innovative solutions (e.g., green hydrogen). Need for research and communication between scientists, PPP, and NGOs. Funding commitments from countries are needed. Uzbekistan has experience in decarbonization in the transport sector (under the energy and transport ministries). Also, the PRC has a strategy for decarbonization of transport.
CAREC Climate Platform	Ms. Doljinsuren Myagmar (Mongolia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The platform should provide information on current projects and identify solutions, future projects, and required steps. The main challenges are political and regional integration, the transparency of finance, the need for high-level

		<p>meetings, data and information collection criteria to evaluate implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On capacity needs, the platform should serve as a bridge between countries for training and capacity building. The platform should support regional project development, article 6 training, and methodologies for emissions trading.
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Session 3: A Regional Approach to Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

21. The session aimed to discuss existing challenges and gaps in EWS in CAREC countries and identify potential initiatives to enhance interoperability between national EWSs. It included three presentations, focused on (i) an overview of EWS in the CAREC region, (ii) the modernization of hydromet services and information-sharing in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan, and (iii) a proposal for an integrated CAREC MHEWS to strengthen preparedness and disaster resilience.

22. Ms. Nataly Olofinskaya, Regional Adaptation Adviser, UNDP, provided an overview of UNDP's work on climate information and EWS in the CAREC Region. This included MHEWS projects in Uzbekistan (2021-2027) and Georgia (2019-2026), both GCF-financed, as well as the EU-funded climate change and resilience in Central Asia for community-level EWS pilots in Fergana Valley (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). Ms. Olofinskaya also provided an overview of the regional context, including the UNDP/UNDRR mapping study on EWS across Central Asia (2024), the global EW4All program (a concept for investing \$100 million in seven countries) and the global GCF, UNDP, and WHO proposal for 15 countries on climate and health EWS. Ms. Olofinskaya concluded that CAREC can play a decisive role in regional climate observation networks and information and coordination supporting regional forecasting centers.

23. Ms. Henrike Brecht, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank, provided an overview of the Central Asia Hydrometeorology Modernization Project (CAHMP), a joint initiative by the World Bank, GFDRR, and WMO active since 2011. The project includes the Central Asia Flood Early Warning System (CAFEWS), hosted by UzHydromet, to monitor flash floods and landslides, providing a shared platform for data exchange among Central Asia's regional centers for meteorology. Ms. Brecht briefed participants on future steps, including the development of a regional roadmap for the enhancement of hydrometeorological infrastructure, data collection, processing, forecasting, warning dissemination, and service delivery, and a National Capacity Assessment Tool assessments in all 5 Central Asian countries (conducted by WMO and looking at water resources and drought management among others). Ms. Brecht highlighted the need for significant technical assistance resources, focusing on service delivery and regional partnerships, including the private sector.

24. Mr. Matteo Mode', Senior Climate Change Specialist (consultant), ADB presented the proposal for an Integrated CAREC Regional Early Warning System to Strengthen Preparedness and Disaster Resilience included in the CCAP. Mr. Mode' outlined the rationale for a regional MHEWS and introduced its main objectives and components, including linkages and synergies with existing initiatives (e.g., from UNDP and World Bank). Mr. Mode' concluded with crucial points for discussion, including what to include in the initiative pragmatically, challenges (e.g., data sharing and common protocols, etc.), where a regional EWS hub for monitoring and information dissemination could be established in the region (taking into account existing initiatives), and potential next steps.

25. **Azerbaijan.** Mr. Bashir Asadli, Head of Economic Analysis and Forecasting Division of Preventing of Emergency Situations Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations, provided an overview of the current EWS in Azerbaijan, including its structure, staffing, meteo-hydrological observation network, products and services, and the establishment of the situation center in Baku (2022). He also introduced the Strengthening Climate Information and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Increased Resilience in Azerbaijan (UNEP/GCF) project. Mr. Mutallimov underscored

that Azerbaijan's situation center provided a good foundation for a future MHEWS and reiterated the country's willingness to host a CAREC MHEWS regional hub. Mr. Rosbach replied that there are other initiatives and existing systems in the region that CAREC could build upon and noted that a niche for CAREC could be on heat risk.

26. **Tajikistan.** Mr. Abdullo Qurbonzoda commented that the regional MHEWS hub would be better positioned in one of the Central Asian countries (e.g., Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan). He also remarked that Central Asian countries share forecasting products based on hydromet data daily, including from Tajikistan. For glacier monitoring, CAREC proposed initiatives that could build upon the glacier monitoring center planned in Tajikistan with the support of the World Bank. ADB and DPs could collaborate with the WB on CAFEWS on impact-based forecasting and operationalize forecasting mechanisms to include dams and rivers. He also underlined the importance of water forecasting information sharing and continued the discussion on these activities.

Session 4. Climate Adaptation in Mountain Ecosystems

27. The session was moderated by Mr. Johannes Linn, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, and Climate Change Advisor (ADB consultant). The session was opened with a virtual presentation by Ms. Maira Shahgedanova from the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI) on Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Asia. A panel discussion focused on best practices, climate adaptation solutions in mountainous areas, and potential applications to CAREC countries. Panelists included Ms. Asel Madybaeva, Deputy Director of the Climate Finance Centre under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic; Mr. Turakul Murodov, Deputy Head Centre for Implementation of Investment Projects, Committee for Environmental Protection, Tajikistan; Ms. Saima Saleh, Section Officer, Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan; and Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC-Eco).

28. The panel discussed the specific adaptation needs of CAREC's mountain communities resulting from changing precipitation patterns, glacier retreat and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), growing water scarcity, soil erosion, and biodiversity loss. One of the panel's aims was to identify a concrete set of actions for the CCAP in this area. Potential actions identified during the discussion include: (i) assessing the specific climate risks and impacts facing mountain communities to identify adaptation solutions that can help reduce risk and enhance preparedness, especially glacier melting and GLOFs; (ii) developing and implementing regional programs to address common challenges faced by mountain communities and smallholder farmers across CAREC countries, including offering access to clean and green energy, improving food security, and promoting the adoption of climate-smart agriculture practices and crop diversification through capacity building and enhanced access to climate-resilient technologies and equipment; (iii) pursuing nature-based solutions such as reforestation and restoration of degraded land to improve water availability and reduce natural hazard risk; and (iv) facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices on climate adaptation among mountain communities, and relevant stakeholders.

Session 5: COP29

29. The CAREC Secretariat provided an update on the proposed initiatives and side events to be featured at COP29, including (i) the launch of the CAREC Climate Change Action Plan and CSPPF (to be confirmed) and (ii) CAREC Partnership for Climate, Innovation, and Trade (proposal from Azerbaijan) to be presented on 14 Nov at the Azerbaijan pavilion.

30. Mr. Elmar Mammadov, Head of the Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Co-Lead of the COP29 Global and Regional Initiatives and Action Agenda Team, provided an overview of Azerbaijan initiatives for COP29. Mr. Mammadov outlined that Azerbaijan has five principles for COP29 such as (i) climate finance, (ii) mitigation and adaptation, (iii) ensuring a balance between climate ambitions and enabling actions, (iv) covering all dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), and (v) harmony between human

and nature (human capital and nature-based solutions). Azerbaijan has 14 global initiatives and eight regional initiatives, including the CAREC Partnership for Climate, Innovation, and Trade and initiatives under the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), among others. Mr. Mammadov asked CAREC members to work with the trade working group and other relevant agencies to ensure the signature of the proposed declaration (circulated to member countries via official channels and through the CAREC Secretariat) on 14 November at COP29.

III. Wrap-up and Next Steps

31. Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova thanked participants for their contributions and remarked that there are still a few critical steps to take before the finalization of the Climate Change Action Plan. She encouraged the WGCC members to continue working closely with the CAREC Secretariat to ensure that respective CAREC National Focal Points and other relevant agencies are well informed ahead of the NFPs meeting on 15 October and the CAREC Ministerial Conference on 8 November. Ms. Sabyrova also acknowledged the comments on the draft CCAP provided by member countries. She reiterated that the CAREC Secretariat will work on it further despite the complexity and uncertainties of defining specific funding for CCAP activities.

32. Ms. Sabyrova summarized the main takeaways, including the proposals to (i) hold joint meetings and consultations with other sectoral working groups to develop further and advance the CCAP proposed projects and initiatives and (ii) combine the climate steering committee with existing high-level CAREC meetings to provide the venue for monitoring and tracking of CCAP performance (i.e., inviting Ministers of Ecology / Environment / Climate Change to the MC, or deputy ministers to the NFPs' meeting). She also summarized the following steps, including:

- (i) Any additional written comments on the draft CCAP are to be provided by countries no later than 10 September;
- (ii) Final draft CCAP, incorporating comments, to be shared and presented at the NFPs meeting scheduled on 15 October;
- (iii) CCAP endorsement by the MC on 8 November, and further launched at COP29 on 14 November; and
- (iv) A summary of the meeting is to be shared with WGCC members.

33. Ms. Sabyrova was pleased to find out that the training on carbon markets was deemed helpful by CAREC countries, noting that more knowledge and training opportunities focused on climate change will come as part of the support provided under the CAREC umbrella. Ms. Sabyrova concluded by thanking all participants for their active participation and encouraged everyone to continue working together to advance the climate agenda in the region.

CAREC Working Group on Climate Change Meeting
Agenda, 2–3 September 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

Background and Objectives

The CAREC Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC) has been established in 2024 to support the implementation of the [Regional Action on Climate Change: a Vision for CAREC](#) (CAREC Climate Change Vision). To support the implementation of the Vision, the WGCC with support from the CAREC Secretariat is developing a CAREC Climate Change Action Plan. The Action Plan will guide CAREC’s operations and initiatives to help mainstream climate change across CAREC sectors, develop and implement regional climate adaptation and mitigation projects, and strengthen coordination among development partners to increase and optimize resources in support to regional climate actions.

The purpose of the 3rd WGCC meeting is to discuss and finalize the draft CAREC Climate Change Action Plan, to be presented at the CAREC Ministerial Conference on 8 November 2024. The meeting will also initiate the conceptualization of regional climate adaptation and mitigation projects, share knowledge and best practices to address common challenges and identify joint solutions for the region that can be featured in international and regional fora, such as the 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 29) on 11–22 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

As part of the WGCC Meeting a half-day training on Art. 6 will be conducted. ADB will present the emerging landscape of carbon market opportunities and contextualize such opportunities in the unique circumstances and priorities to tackle climate change in the CAREC region. The training will introduce international carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and update the CAREC Working Group on Climate Change (WGCC) members on the latest state and trends with international carbon markets, sharing insights on the potential opportunities for CAREC member countries on utilizing international carbon markets as part of their broader climate policy architecture.

AGENDA

Monday, 2 September 2024 (Baku Time)	
08:45–09:00	Registration
09:00–09:05	Opening Remarks Mr. Samad Bashirli , Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and National Focal Point, Azerbaijan Mr. Faig Mutallimov , Head of Ecological Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
09:05–09:10	Introduction of Program Objective: Overview of the outcomes of the second virtual meeting of the WG and the goals and agenda for this WG meeting. Ms. Lyaziza M. Sabyrova , Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, Central and West Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
09:10–10:30	Session 1. CAREC Climate Change Action Plan

	<p>Objective: The CAREC Secretariat will present the draft CAREC Climate Change Action Plan for discussion and finalization with the WGCC representatives.</p> <p>Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), ADB</p> <p>Ms. Carmen Garcia Perez, Regional Cooperation Specialist, ADB</p> <p>Mr. Matteo Mode', Senior Climate Change Specialist, ADB</p> <p>Open Discussion</p>
10:30–10:50	Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break
10:50–11:45	Session 1 (continuation)
11:45–13:00	Lunch Hosted by ADB
13:00–14:30	<p>Session 2: Interactive Group Discussions</p> <p>Objective: Conceptualization and prioritization of Action plan categories and regional project proposals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants will be divided into groups to further conceptualize and prioritize the regional project proposals included in the Action Plan.
14:30–14:50	Coffee/Tea Break
14:50–16:20	<p>Session 2 (continuation)</p> <p>Each group will have 15 minutes to present the outcomes of the breakout session, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A.</p>
16:20–16:30	Recap of Day 1 and Agenda for Day 2
Tuesday, 3 September 2024 (Baku Time)	
08:45–09:00	Registration
09:00–12:15	Training Workshop: Carbon Market Opportunities and Article 6
09:00–09:10	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Virender Kumar Duggal, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</p>
09:10–09:50	<p>Topic 1: Carbon Markets in the Context of Climate Policy Architecture</p> <p>Objective: Overview of carbon markets as a part of the broader climate policy architecture and its use in achieving national climate policy objectives, including insights on what a coherent climate policy mix can look like and how carbon pricing plays a role in achieving these targets.</p> <p>Presentation by Mr. George Anjaparidze, Carbon Market Expert / Managing Partner, Veritas Global</p> <p>Open discussion/ Q&A</p>
09:50–10:30	<p>Topic 2: Landscape of Carbon Market Opportunities</p> <p>Objective: Overview of the broad landscape of carbon market instruments including emissions trading systems, international compliance markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, as well as the voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) and their role in achieving national climate policy objectives. This will include discussions on the benefits and challenges with carbon markets and existing experience in the CAREC region from the use of project-based mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism.</p>

	<p>Presentation by Mr. George Anjaparidze, Carbon Market Expert / Managing Partner, Veritas Global</p> <p>Open discussion/ Q&A</p>
10:30–10:50	Coffee/Tea Break
10:50–12:05	<p>Topic 3: Deep Dive on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement</p> <p>Objective: Deep dive on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement with a focus on pertinent issues such as the need to establish policies for engagement with Article 6 at national level, including criteria for export of carbon credits (ITMOs), and linkages with other carbon market opportunities such as the VCM. The session will include case studies from countries taking advance action to operationalize Article 6 and latest insights from Article 6 negotiations, including outcomes of negotiations on Cooperative Approaches and the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (Article 6.2 and 6.4) at SBSTA60 and what is at stake at COP29.</p> <p>Presentation by Mr. George Anjaparidze, Carbon Market Expert / Managing Partner, Veritas Global</p> <p>Open discussion/ Q&A</p>
12:05–12:15	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Virender Kumar Duggal, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB</p>
12:15–13:45	Lunch Hosted by ADB
13:45–15:00	<p>Session 3: A Regional Approach to Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems</p> <p>Objective: WGCC members will discuss existing challenges and gaps in early warning systems (EWS) in CAREC countries and identify potential initiatives to enhance interoperability between national EWSs based on best practices from other regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Ms. Nataly Olofinskaya, Regional Adaptation Adviser, UNDP on Overview of EWS in the CAREC Region • Presentation by Ms. Henrike Brecht, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank on Modernization of Hydromet Services and Information-Sharing in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan • Presentation by Mr. Matteo Mode, Senior Climate Change Specialist, ADB on Proposal for an Integrated CAREC Regional Early Warning System to Strengthen Preparedness and Disaster Resilience <p>Open Discussion / Q&A</p>
15:00–15:20	Coffee/Tea Break
15:20–16:20	<p>Session 4. Climate Adaptation in Mountain Ecosystems</p> <p>Objective: Panel discussion on best practices and climate adaptation solutions in mountainous areas and potential application to CAREC countries.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Johannes Linn, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution, and Climate Change Advisor, ADB</p> <p>Virtual presentation by Ms. Maira Shahgedanova on Adaptation to Climate Change in Central Asia: The Mountain Research Initiative</p>

	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Asel Madybaeva, Deputy Director of Climate Finance Center under the Cabinet of Ministers, The Kyrgyz Republic • Mr. Turakul Murodov, Deputy Head, Center for Implementation of Investment Projects, Committee for Environmental Protection, Tajikistan • Ms. Saima Saleh, Section Officer (IC), Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan • Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC-Eco) <p>Open Discussion / Q&A</p>
16:20–17:05	<p>Session 5: COP29</p> <p>Objective: Discussion on key activities and preparations for the upcoming COP29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by Mr. Elmar Mammadov, Head of Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-Lead of the COP29 Global and Regional Initiatives and Action Agenda Team, Azerbaijan on COP29 preparations, including key activities and sessions for the CAREC region <p>Open Discussion</p>
17:05–17:15	<p>Wrap-up</p> <p>Objective: Summary of key takeaways from the discussions and next steps.</p> <p>Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, CWRC, CWRD, ADB</p>

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

2-3 September 2024, Baku, Azerbaijan

A. COUNTRY DELEGATES

I. AZERBAIJAN

1. Mr. Samad Bashirli, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and National Focal Point, Azerbaijan
2. Mr. Elmar Mammadov, Head of Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-Lead of the COP29 Global and Regional Initiatives and Action Agenda Team
3. Mr. Mehman Abbas, Climate Change Expert
4. Mr. Kamran Abbaszade, Chief advisor of Sustainable Development and Social Policy Department, Ministry of Economy
5. Ms. Sabina Mammadli, Head of Foreign Economic Relationships Department, The Economic Scientific Research Institute under the Ministry of Economy
6. Mr. Bashir Asadli, Head of Economic Analysis and Forecasting Division of Preventing of Emergency Situations Department, Ministry of Emergency Situations
7. Mr. Faig Mutallimov, Head of Ecological Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
8. Mr. Sevinc Ibadova, Deputy Director of Climate Change Center, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
9. Ms. Aygun Narimanova, Chief advisor of International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
10. Ms. Asiya Alizade, Chief advisor of Strategy, International Cooperation and Science Department, The State Agency of Water Resources
11. *Mr. Huseyn Huseynov, Head of Sustainable Development and Social Policy Department, Ministry of Economy*
12. *Ms. Aytakin Guluzade-Verdiyeva, Deputy Head of Department on Cooperation with International Organizations, Ministry of Economy*
13. *Ms. Gunel Guliyeva, Head of Division on Cooperation with International Donors, Department on Cooperation with International Organizations, Ministry of Economy*

II. PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

14. Mr. Bowei Wang, Research Assistant, Department of Policy and Regulation Research, National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation (NCSC)
15. Ms. Anna Jarcken, Program Manager, Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center (FECO), China Center for SCO Environmental Cooperation (CSEC), Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China

III. GEORGIA

16. Ms. Shorena Shemozashvili, Senior Specialist, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development

IV. KAZAKHSTAN

17. Ms. Saule Sabiyeva, Director, Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

V. THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

18. Ms. Asel Madybaeva, Deputy Director, Center for Climate Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic
19. Ms. Aida Duishenbieva, Chief Specialist, Climate Policy Department, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision
20. Mr. Bekbolot Tashkulov, Head of the Sector for Development of Regulatory Legal Acts, Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision

VI. MONGOLIA

21. Ms. Doljinsuren Myagmar, Senior Officer, Sustainable Development Goals, Environmental Education Policy and Planning, Climate Change and Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Environment and Tourism
22. Mr. Batzolboo Jugderbaram, Senior Specialist, Environment and Natural Resources Department of the Capital Environment Department

VII. PAKISTAN

23. Ms. Saima Saleh, Section Officer (IC), Ministry of Climate Change
24. Mr. Muhammad Hamza Iqbal, Section Officer (ADB), Ministry of Economic Affairs

VIII. TAJIKISTAN

25. Mr. Abdullo Qurbonzoda, Director, Hydrometeorology Agency, Committee for Environmental Protection
26. Mr. Turakul Murodov, Deputy Head, Center for Implementation of Investment Projects, Committee for Environmental Protection

IX. TURKMENISTAN

27. Mr. Dovran Yagmyrov, Head of Department for Environmental Protection, Ministry of Environmental Protection
28. Mr. Nazar Gurbangulyyev, Senior Specialist of Division for Coordination of International Projects, Department for International Cooperation on Environmental Issues and Projects' Coordination, Ministry of Environmental Protection

X. UZBEKISTAN

29. 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

30. Ms. Dina Azhgaliyeva, Senior Research Fellow (virtual)

II. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

31. Ms. Lyaziza Sabyrova, Regional Head, Regional Cooperation and Integration, CWRC
32. Mr. Kristian Rosbach, Senior Economist (Regional Cooperation), CWRC
33. Ms. Carmen Garcia Perez, Regional Cooperation Specialist, CWRC (virtual)
34. Mr. Virender Kumar Duggal, Principal Climate Change Specialist, ADB (virtual)
35. Ms. Yagut Ertenliche, Senior Project Officer, AZRM
36. Mr. Khagani Karimov, Senior Economics Officer, AZRM
37. Ms. Irene de Roma, Senior Programs Officer, CWRC (virtual)
38. Mr. Matteo Mode', Senior Climate Change Specialist, Consultant
39. Mr. Johannes Linn, Consultant
40. Mr. George Anjaparidze, Carbon Market Expert/ Consultant
41. Mr. Ashraf Kuliyeu, NFP Advisor
42. Ms. Jen Lapis, Consultant

III. ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK

43. Mr. Xing Zhang, Senior Climate Policy Specialist (virtual)

IV. CAREC INSTITUTE

44. Dr. Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director 2

VI. ecoCAREC

45. Mr. Vladimir Grebnev, Regional Climate Change Specialist

VII. EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

46. Ms. Talay Asylbekov, Senior Banker, Associate Director, Sustainable Infrastructure Group, Central Asia

VIII. GREEN CLIMATE FUND

47. Mr. Maksim Surkov, Regional Manager, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA), Mongolia/China/Korea
48. Ms. Nonhlanhla Zindela, Head of Programming

IX. IsDB

49. Mr. Habib Abubakar, Senior Climate Change Specialist (virtual)

X. United Nations Development Programme

50. Ms. Nataly Olofinskaya, Regional Adaptation Adviser

XI. WORLD BANK

51. Ms. Henrike Brecht, Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist (virtual)

CCAP Timeline

