

# New Participants/ New Partners

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# Urumqi Declaration

“Under the Comprehensive Action Plan, we will broaden and deepen the CAREC Program.”

“We encourage our multilateral and bilateral development partners and the private sector to coordinate their regional cooperation initiatives to be consistent with our Comprehensive Action Plan, in a manner that avoids duplication and maximizes efficient use of resources.”

# Maintaining Focus while Broadening the CAREC Program

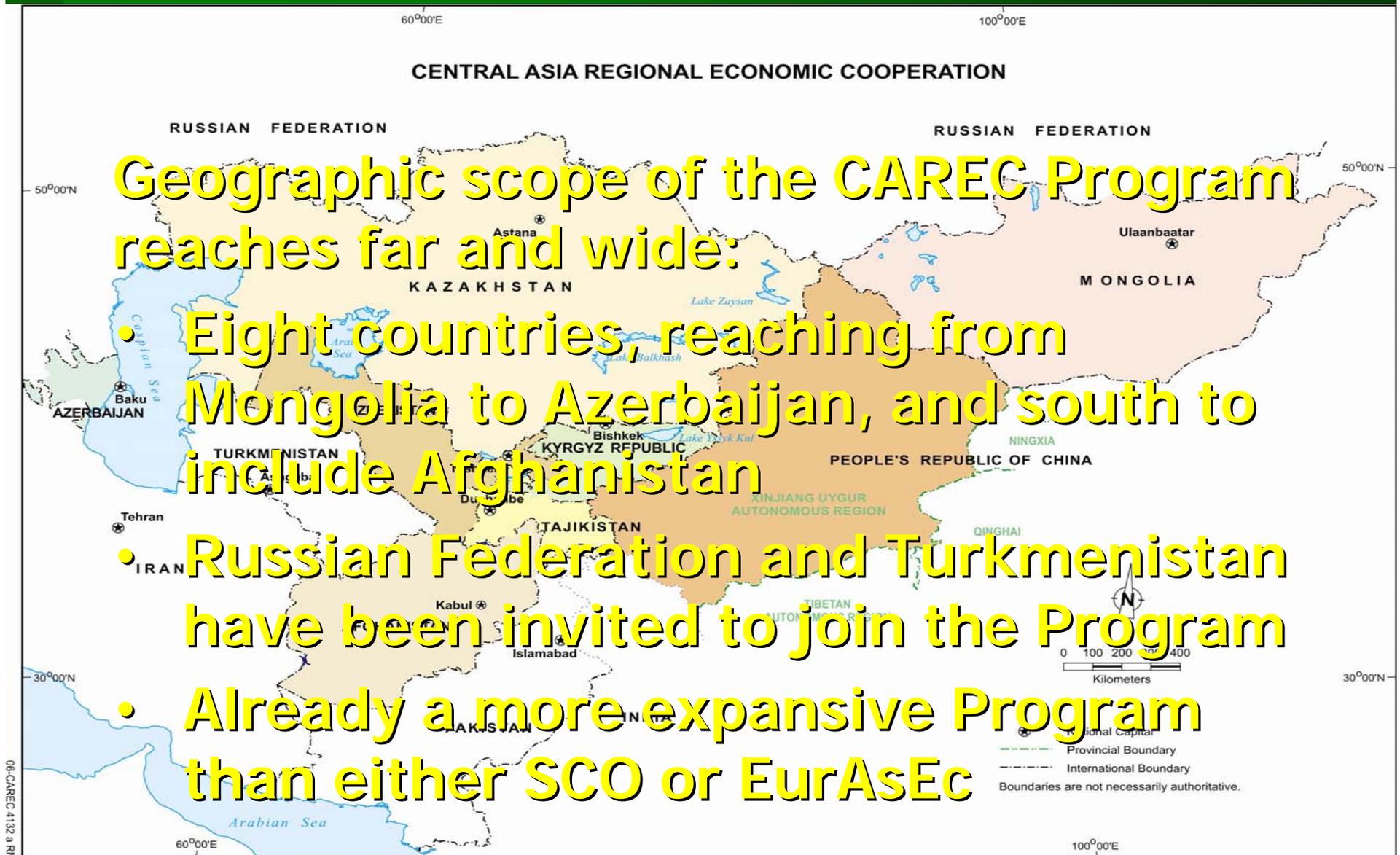
Central Asia as the defining focus:

- Central Asia as a land link for Eurasian trade
- To be a true land link, must serve to link surrounding countries
- Hence the need to strengthen routes and access north/south/east and west

# Geographic Scope of the CAREC Program

Geographic scope of the CAREC Program reaches far and wide:

- Eight countries, reaching from Mongolia to Azerbaijan, and south to include Afghanistan
- Russian Federation and Turkmenistan have been invited to join the Program
- Already a more expansive Program than either SCO or EurAsEc



# Possible Other Participating Countries

Other countries are interested:

- Pakistan in particular has expressed interest
- Other potentially interested countries include Turkey, India, and Iran

# Questions re New Countries

- Would expanding the number of countries compromise the Central Asia focus?
- Would more participants complicate reaching consensus?
- Would the Program (notably the CAREC Secretariat) have the capacity to effectively include new countries?
- What procedure should be followed in considering invitations to new countries?
- What are the views of your Government concerning new countries?
- Should some form of grouping of countries be considered (e.g., first tier/second tier)?

# **New Development Partners**

**In addition to new countries, new development partners are interested in participating in the CAREC Program:**

- New multilaterals: the Eurasian Development Bank, the EU**
- Bilaterals: US, Japan, Germany**
- Possibly other bilaterals: Switzerland, Canada, UK**

# Balancing the Pros and Cons

**Pros and Cons of including more development partners:**

- **Coordination strengthened, duplication reduced**
- **Resource mobilization (technical and financial) enhanced**
- **Risk of diluting ownership of CAREC Program by CAREC countries**
- **Risk of overwhelming SOM, MC by donor representation (all talk, no action)**
- **Risk of compromising current cohesiveness of CAREC MI six**

# A Possible Solution

- An annual donor/country roundtable on regional cooperation/integration
- At a very senior level (deputy prime ministers re countries; vice-presidents re donor agencies)
- Focus on Central Asia but linked to Eurasian integration
- Separate from CAREC's MC, but possibly in the same venue
- Questions: agenda, expected outcomes, costs

# Questions re New Development Partners

- What are the views of your Government concerning inviting new development partners to participate in the SOM, MC and sector working groups?
- If open to expanding the number of development partners, which ones should be priorities for CAREC?
- Could a first tier/second tier concept apply to CAREC's development partners, with the MI six as the first tier?
- If not open to expanding the number of development partners, would your Government support an annual, very senior level conference on regional cooperation/integration?

**Thank You!**

