

CAREC Trade Policy: Progress Report and Issues for Consideration

**CAREC Senior Officials' Meeting
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
5 November 2014**



Trade Policy: Progress Report

- Highlights from the 21st TPCC meeting:
 - ✓ Continued implementation of the capacity-building and knowledge-sharing program
 - ✓ Reporting of initial progress under the updated TPSAP
 - ✓ Roundtable discussions on the TPSAP implementation challenges

Trade Policy: Progress Report

- The TPCC reaffirms its guiding principles:
 - ✓ Trade liberalization through removal of both tariff and non-tariff barriers
 - ✓ WTO accession by all CAREC members
 - ✓ Bolstering the institutional environment for trade

Trade Policy: Issues for SOM's Consideration

- ✓ Key objectives under the updated TPSAP:
 - Reducing and rationalizing the trade impeding impact of SPS measures and TBT measures
 - Expanding trade in services

- ✓ Implementation of such policies is more challenging than the simple removal and reduction of old command and control trade barriers

Trade Policy: Issues for SOM's Consideration

- ✓ CAREC senior officials are asked to facilitate collaboration with international partners for addressing the implementation challenges, starting with initiating a stock taking exercise on:
 - The degree of TBT and SPS measures in place
 - Existing bottlenecks to the expansion of trade in services

- ✓ Further efforts are needed to achieve full participation by member countries in providing information used for assessing progress under the updated TPSAP