



Reference Document  
For Session 4 of the Senior Officials' Meeting  
31 October 2010

# **Background on Turkmenistan's Invitation to Join CAREC**

**9<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference on  
Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation  
31 October – 2 November 2010  
Cebu, Philippines**

1. Turkmenistan is one of two countries invited since early 2007 to become a member of CAREC, with the Russian Federation as the other. The President of Turkmenistan signed a decree on 24 September 2010 whereby the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Central Bank of Turkmenistan are tasked to undertake the necessary actions to make effective Turkmenistan's membership in the CAREC Program. In a letter to the Asian Development Bank's President dated 30 September 2010, the Chairman of the Board of Turkmenistan's Central Bank expressed his government's decision to join CAREC. The Ministry of Economy and Development was designated as the national coordinator for Turkmenistan in CAREC.

2. This note recaps the references in past CAREC documents to Turkmenistan's invitation to join the Program.

### **January 2007**

3. The Asian Development Bank, on behalf of the participating CAREC countries, sent a formal letter inviting the Government of Turkmenistan to join the CAREC Program. The letter explained that the CAREC countries agreed Turkmenistan's participation would advance regional cooperation and make transport, trade, energy, and other joint initiatives more effective.

### **March 2007**

4. At the Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) in March 2007, Turkmenistan's First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Economy and Finance made a special presentation on the country's economy, trade relations with CAREC countries, and its main initiatives or priorities in transport and energy.

5. This presentation was noted in the Summary of Proceedings, and the SOM expressed in the proceedings that "Delegates welcomed the prospect of participation by Turkmenistan."

### **September 2007**

6. During the September 2007 SOM a session on "Other Business" discussed second tier activities, research, outreach, a development partners' forum, and application steps for new members. The SOM's "Other Business" report made references to Turkmenistan's participation in CAREC training seminars and the Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management. The report also stated that, "CAREC currently has eight participating countries and six participating multilateral institutions (MIs). Two additional countries have been invited to participate (Russia, Turkmenistan)."

7. In the Summary of Proceedings from the SOM, senior officials stated, "Delegations reiterated their continued interest in the participation of Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation." The Report of Senior Officials to the Sixth Ministerial Conference, which was endorsed by the Ministers, contained four references to Turkmenistan's invitation to join CAREC: (i) "The Russian Federation and Turkmenistan have been formally invited to join the Program"; (ii) "Further, a proposed procedure for application for participation in the CAREC Program was discussed, with the conclusion that a step-by-step approach should be followed; the participation of Turkmenistan and the Russian Federation are of primary interest"; (iii) "Currently, CAREC includes eight countries and six supporting multilateral institutions (MIs). Two additional countries have been invited to participate (Russia Federation and Turkmenistan)"; and (iv) "In addition, we seek the approval of Ministers for a step-by-step approach to expanding participation in the Program, with priority attention to inclusion of the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan."