

## Remarks by Mr. Ju Kuilin on the

### Themes and Key Messages for the 5<sup>th</sup> Ministerial Conference

Five years has passed since the first Ministerial Conference in 2002, and notable progress has been made in the CAREC program. We, as a group, should be proud of the achievements so far, though we are fully aware of the many challenges we are still facing. Ministerial Conference is the highest governing body in the CAREC Overall Institutional Framework (OIF). Ministers meet once a year to review the progress in priority sectors, make decisions on the key next steps, and provide strategic guidance to future development of CAREC. The annual MC is also an excellent conduit in terms of establishing a commonly-recognized image for CAREC and conveying it to the wider international community. A carefully-selected theme for the MC will very well serve this purpose. Last year in Bishkek, ministers selected “Development through Cooperation” as the theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> MC. This year, we also need to choose a good theme. On top of the annual themes for the annual ministerial conferences, we need to take one step further in terms of designing a longer-term vision and mission statement for the CAREC Program.

#### First, on the 5<sup>th</sup> MC Theme

ADB, as the CAREC Secretariat, has come up with some draft proposals for the theme of this year’s MC. I believe that you have all had the chance to go through the briefing note on this subject. These, I should say, are all very good proposals. But we have to make a choice. After some careful consideration, PRC as the host country would like to propose that the theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> MC be “Partnership for Development”. This has a very strong coherence to, and is a logical extension of, the theme of the 4<sup>th</sup> MC. I put forward this proposal for your consideration.

## Second, on the CAREC Vision Statement

As we all understand, the theme of the annual ministerial conference, by nature, is relevant mainly to a specific MC in a particular year. As I mentioned earlier, the CAREC Program needs a longer-term vision statement, which should be precise, concise, and powerful in conveying to the wider international community a central and strong message about the CAREC Program. ADB colleagues have done some very good homework for us, which makes my job much easier. I, on behalf of the PRC delegation, would like to propose that the vision statement be: “Good Neighbors, Good Partners, Good Prospects”. The three Gs, in my view, will be a very good ID for the CAREC in many years to come.

## Third, on the key messages for the 5<sup>th</sup> MC

In addition to a theme for the 5<sup>th</sup> MC, the SOM should also select key messages to be conveyed to Ministers. Last year, the SOM in October chose 8 key messages for Ministers, which were all incorporated into the Joint Ministerial Statement. Many of these remain relevant to this year’s Ministerial Conference. In order to better facilitate the discussions by Ministers this year, we propose the following as the key messages. Of course, your suggestions will be more than welcome.

- Need to accelerate the momentum for regional cooperation;
- Need to mobilize more resources (technical and financial);
- Need for strategic frameworks for each sector;
- Need for a CAREC Comprehensive Action Plan;
- Need for “bold strokes”;
- Need to push the frontiers of regional cooperation (e.g., economic corridor concept);
- Need for more outreach activities (CAREC Business Development Forum; Trade Policy outreach seminars)
- Need to involve the private sector in a more proactive manner