



## **Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Institute**

### **Webinar on Using ESCAP's online Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA) for Trade Negotiations**

**7-8 July 2021**

**Draft Concept Note**

#### **1. Background and rationale**

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) Trade Intelligence and Negotiation Advisor (TINA) is an online tool designed to assist trade policymakers, as well as researchers and consultants supporting them, to carry out many of the analytical tasks commonly conducted in preparation for negotiation. These tasks require specialized analytical and data management skills and are time consuming when performed manually.

TINA is designed to assist countries to negotiate trade agreements and enhance trade in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides insight on current tariffs, non-tariff measures (NTMs), agreements and bilateral trade flows, and serves to identify key commodities to negotiate better tariffs.

The CAREC Institute (CI), as a knowledge and institutional focal point, aims to scale up trade policy-related research and capacity building in terms of both scope and breadth and plays a key role in developing sustainable knowledge and analytical underpinnings for the trade policy dialogue conducted in support of CAREC Program.

CI and UNESCAP desire to cooperate in trade-related capacity building development of the CAREC Institute's staff and will jointly manage a training program for target participants on TINA. The topics covered will include obtaining descriptive trade statistics and indicators, generating and examining in detail an offensive list of products, as well as simulations of tariff liberalization and preference loss scenarios.

#### **2. Key Objectives**

The overall aims are (i) to assist CI's research team and CI's fellowship program members with the feasibility study of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the CAREC member countries and develop quality and efficiency of its research; (ii) to share knowledge and enhance the technical and analytical skills of the CI's staff and participants (stakeholders) involved in FTAs/RTAs and equip them with the

necessary tools and innovations for undertaking FTAs/RTAs; (iii) to encourage targeted policymakers to further regional cooperation and dialogue on FTA; (iv) to identify practical recommendations for researchers and policymakers.

### **3. Expected Outcomes**

The CAREC Institute will deliver capacity building activities (i) in the form of workshop/seminars and policy dialogue; (ii) to generate and disseminate knowledge products in the form of user guide and explanatory note for TINA; (iii) to enhance attendees' knowledge and skills in identifying the main challenges to improve the efficiency of trade policy instruments and FTA among the member countries, including border crossing services and find collective ways forward; (iv) to promote further dialogue among government officials, including experience exchanges how to eliminate trade barriers and increase intra-regional trade; boost regional cooperation, collaboration, and networking among policymakers and international experts.

### **4. Target Participants**

The CAREC Institute offers knowledge support to all stakeholders with primary three type of target participants:

- First target audiences are the CAREC Institute's staff, involved in trade-related research and capacity building activities;
- Second target audiences are middle- to senior-level government officials/experts from relevant ministries or agencies of CAREC member countries, whose work impact the CAREC Program activities and promote FTA in the CAREC region.
- Third target audiences are all E-Learning users and stakeholders who are interested and registered in the CAREC Institute E-Learning Platform. They can access all recorded modules along with expert presentations, discussions, and associated learning materials from anywhere at any time.

All participants are required to have access to the internet and webinar software such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams. Age and gender will not be factors in attending CAREC Institute E-Learning and face-to-face capacity building activities. Experts representing development agencies, NGOs, and research/academic institutions are also encouraged to participate and utilize CAREC Institute E-Learning Platform.