



The CAREC Institute Policy Dialogue Series:

Debt and Financial Sustainability in the EFSD and CAREC Regions

Webinar

13 May 2025

14:00 – 16:00 (Beijing time, GMT +8)

Agenda

13:50-14:00 Virtual Connection to the Dialogue and Webinar Rules

14:00-14:10 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director II, CAREC Institute (CI)
- Sergei Ulatov, Chief Economist and Deputy Managing Director, Eurasian Fund for Stabilization and Development (EFSD)

Group Photo

14:10-14:55 **Session 1: Debt and Financial Sustainability in the CAREC Region**

Session 1 will form the foundation for further expert dialog under Session 2 and will focus on important aspects that can improve public debt management strategies, fiscal discipline, and policy transparency in the CAREC region. In Session 1, the speakers will present research findings of CI, namely, country-level interest rate risk impact on debt and fiscal sustainability and COVID -19 and economic recovery potential in the CAREC region, as well as the EFSD Working Paper related to assessment of the potential impact of natural hazard events on debt sustainability.

Speakers:

- Ghulam Samad, Chief of Research Division, CI, and Naseem Faraz, Deputy Economic Advisor at Ministry of Finance, Government of Pakistan
- Taras Tsukarev, Director of Analytics Department, EFSD
- Kiryl Lemba, Economist, Research Department, EFSD

Moderator: Ilhom Abdulloev, Chief of Capacity Building Division, CI

14:55-15:55 **Session 2: Policy Dialogue and Exchange of Views on Debt and Financial Sustainability in the CAREC Region**

This is an open dialogue Session with leading international experts from key implementing partner organizations. Each panelist will have 7-10 minutes to respond to the following guiding questions and any audience questions, as well as engage in an open discussion with other experts and participants.

1. *What are the risks to financial sustainability in EFSD and CAREC countries?*

2. What are the key challenges related to debt management and what is your advice to policymakers regarding ways to resolve the debt related issues in the post-COVID era?
3. What is the role of development partners in achieving debt sustainability in the EFSD and CAREC regions?

Panel Discussion

- Nyda Mukhtar, Public Management Specialist, SG-PSMG, ADB
- Norbert Funke, Director of the IMF Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia Regional Capacity Development Center (CCAMTAC)
- David Knight, Lead Economist and Program Leader, Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions (EFI) Central Asia, the World Bank
- Juan Pradelli, Consultant, Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF)
- Feng Beilin, Senior Researcher at the Chinese Academy of Fiscal Sciences, serves as the Vice-Director of the Research Center for Finance
- Hamza Ali Malik, Director of Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division (UNESCAP)

Moderator: Ghulam Samad, Chief, Research Division, CI

15:55-16:00

Closing Remarks

- Kuat Akizhanov, Deputy Director II, CI

Notes:

Time limits

Presentations of research findings – 10-20 minutes each

Questions and answers - 15 minutes. The chair/moderator will pick up some questions from the floor for the panelists from 'Q&A' box or from 'raised hands'.

Panel open discussion – 60 minutes.

Questions

Questions will be welcomed during the workshop. After the presentations, there will be a live discussion. Attendees may use 'Q&A' at the bottom of your screen to type their questions.

Speakers, please type answers to the questions in 'Q&A' after your presentation.

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Simultaneous Interpretation by Zoom will be available. Please select from the bottom panel which language for interpretation you would like: English or Russian.