

**DEEPENING  
CONNECTIVITY &  
EXPANDING  
TRADE** THROUGH  
INVESTMENT IN  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
& IMPROVING  
SYNERGY

# RECCA-VII **AT A GLANCE**

ASHGABAT, 14-15 NOVEMBER 2017



RECCA 



# INTRODUCTION

**14-15 NOVEMBER 2017 • ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN**

## **SEVENTH REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISAN**

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**T**he Seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA VII) will be held at the ministerial level with the participation of ministers (Ministers of Foreign or Economic Affairs) and heads of regional and international organizations in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on November 14-15, 2017.

Since its inception in 2005, RECCA has grown considerably in structure, the number of participating countries and organizations, as well as in the scope of activities. Its structure now includes academic, business, and youth forums and thematic events held on the sidelines of the biennial ministerial meetings, as well as ambassadorial coordination meetings, national focal points meetings, inter-ministerial meetings and other special events convened in between the ministerial meetings.

RECCA has also grown to include an ever larger number of regional and partner countries and organizations, reaching a record of 40 countries and 30 regional and international organizations at RECCA VI held from 3-4 September 2015 in Kabul. The scope of work under RECCA has also gradually expanded and includes areas such as energy; transport networks; trade and transit facilitation; communications; B2B partnership and labor support.

RECCA is now a leading regional cooperation framework and plays an important role in promoting and facilitating the implementation of regional priority investment projects in the above-mentioned areas, each projected to increase economic growth, job creation, public revenue generation, and confidence-building across Central, South and Southwest Asia and beyond.

# PREVIOUS RECCA MEETINGS



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## 2005 • KABUL

**FIRST** REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN



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## 2006 • NEW DELHI

**SECOND** REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN



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## 2009 • ISLAMABAD

**THIRD** REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN



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## 2010 • ISTANBUL

**FOURTH** REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

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## 2012 • DUSHANBE

**FIFTH** REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

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## 2015 • KABUL

**SIXTH** REGIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

# PRIORITY PROJECTS

## REGIONAL COOPERATION & INVESTMENT PROJECTS



**1** Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Natural Gas Pipeline (TAPI)



**2** Central Asia—South Asia Regional Energy Market (CASA-1000)



**3** Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan 500KV Line



**4** The Belt & Road Initiative and Afghanistan



**5** Lapis-Lazuli Transit, Trade & Transport Route Agreement



**6** Chabahar International Transport & Transit Corridor



**7** Five Nations Railway Corridor



**8** Afghanistan Rail Network



**9** Trans-Hindukush Road Connectivity Project

# PRIORITY PROJECTS

## REGIONAL COOPERATION & INVESTMENT PROJECTS

**10** Cross Border Transport Agreement, and TIR Convention



**11** Special Economic Zones/ Multimodal Transport & Logistics Facilities



**12** Regional Trade, Customs & Border Management Cooperation



**13** Digital Silk Road



**14** Enhancing Regional Business-to-Business Partnerships



**15** Women's Economic Empowerment through Regional Economic Cooperation through a RECCA Chamber of Commerce & Industries



**16** Regional Agro Food Industry Development



**17** Labor Exchange and Remittances



**18** RECCA Center for Research & Evaluation



# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

SINCE RECCA-VI (September 2015)

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Inauguration of the TAPI gas pipeline project

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Commencement of the implementation phase of CASA-1000 electricity transmission

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Completion of the feasibility studies of TAP-500KV

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Finalization of the Lapis Lazuli Route Agreement

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Signing of the Chabahar International Transport and Transit Agreement

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Inauguration of the Atamurad-Imamnazar-Aqina Railway Line

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Ongoing work on the third section of Khaf-Herat railway

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Commencement of the feasibility studies on Sheberghan-Herat Railway as part of the Five Nations Railway project

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The establishment of cargo train between China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan as part of the Belt and Road Initiative

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The inauguration of air cargo between Afghanistan and India as part of the efforts to improve regional air connectivity

# RECCA-VII OBJECTIVES

## **Building on the outcomes of the previous RECCA meetings, RECCA VII will provide an opportunity to:**

- Take stock of the progress made since RECCA VI in Kabul through a comprehensive review of the regional priority investment projects, including the actions recommended in the RECCA Annual Review of Progress 2016;

- Discuss the challenges and bottlenecks, as well as the financing and investment needs, with respect to both current and new regional priority investment projects in the key economic sectors of energy; transport networks; trade and transit facilitation; communications; and B2B and labor support.;

- Build consensus around concrete steps that need to be taken by governments, the private sector, and international organizations in the context of ongoing projects;

- Present possible new “bankable” (attracting private and public sector) investment project concepts or reform initiatives under the abovementioned economic sectors;

- Further promote synergies and cooperation between RECCA, the Heart of Asia- Istanbul Process and other regional cooperation platforms in the wider region.



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