



# **RECCA 2.0: Key Elements and New Initiatives**

Kabul, 16 April 2018

# RECCA: Expansion of Participation

- ▶ Established in 2005, RECCA has gradually witnessed an increasing number of participating countries and organizations which reached 67 countries and organizations in the RECCA-VII (Ashgabat, 14-15 November 2017).

RECCA has turned into a leading regional cooperation framework aimed at promoting cross-border economic cooperation through a list of prioritized regional economic cooperation and investment projects that are capable of contributing to economic growth, job creation, income generation and confidence building in the wider Central, South and Southwest Asia and beyond.

# RECCA: Expanded Structure

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■ **Ministerial Meeting**

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■ **Academic Forum**

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■ **Youth Forum**

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■ **Business Forum**

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■ **Inter-ministerial Meeting**

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■ **Ambassadorial Coordination Meeting**

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■ **RECCA National Focal Points Meeting**

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■ **Special Events**

# Previous RECCA Meetings

**2005** RECCA I • Kabul

**2009** RECCA III • Islamabad

**2012** RECCA V • Dushanbe

**2006** RECCA II • New Delhi

**2010** RECCA IV • Istanbul

**2015** RECCA VI • Kabul



# The Seventh Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan

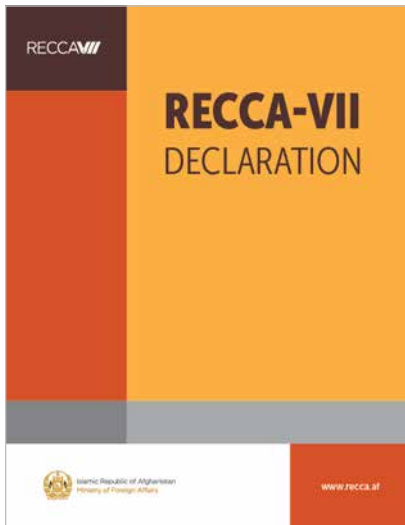
- ▶ RECCA-VII was convened at a ministerial level with the participation of 67 delegations from RECCA regional and partner countries, and organizations in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 14-15 November 2017.



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

# RECCA-VII Declaration

- ▶ The Declaration is **concise and action-oriented** with a preamble and a set of operational recommendations and deliverables on the priority projects and activities under RECCA.



RECCA-VII Declaration is now available on our website at [www.recca.af](http://www.recca.af)

# RECCA Priority Projects



# Energy



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

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

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**Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan  
500-kV Line (TAP-500)**

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# Transport Networks



**The Belt and Road Initiative and Afghanistan**

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**Lapis-Lazuli Trade & Transit Route**

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**Chabahar Corridor**

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**Five Nations Railway Corridor**

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**Afghanistan Rail Network**

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**Trans-Hindukush Road Connectivity Project**

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# Trade & Transit Facilitation

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**Cross-Border Transport Agreement & TIR Convention**

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**Special Economic Zones, Multimodal Transport & Logistics Facilities**

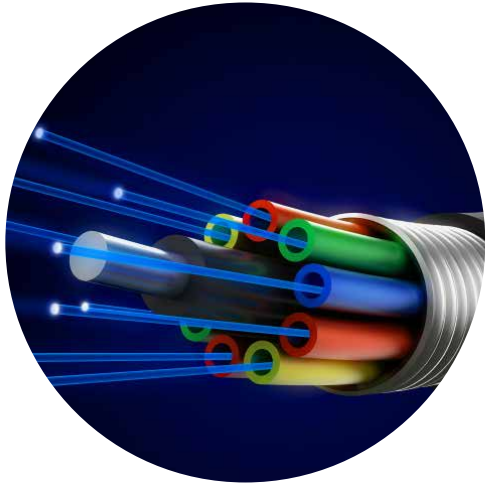
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**Regional Customs & Border Management Cooperation**

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# Communications



## Digital Silk Road



# B2B & Labor Support



**Enhancing Regional B2B Partnerships through a RECCA Chamber of Commerce & Industries**

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**Women's Economic Empowerment through Regional Economic Cooperation**

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**Regional Agro Food Industry Development**

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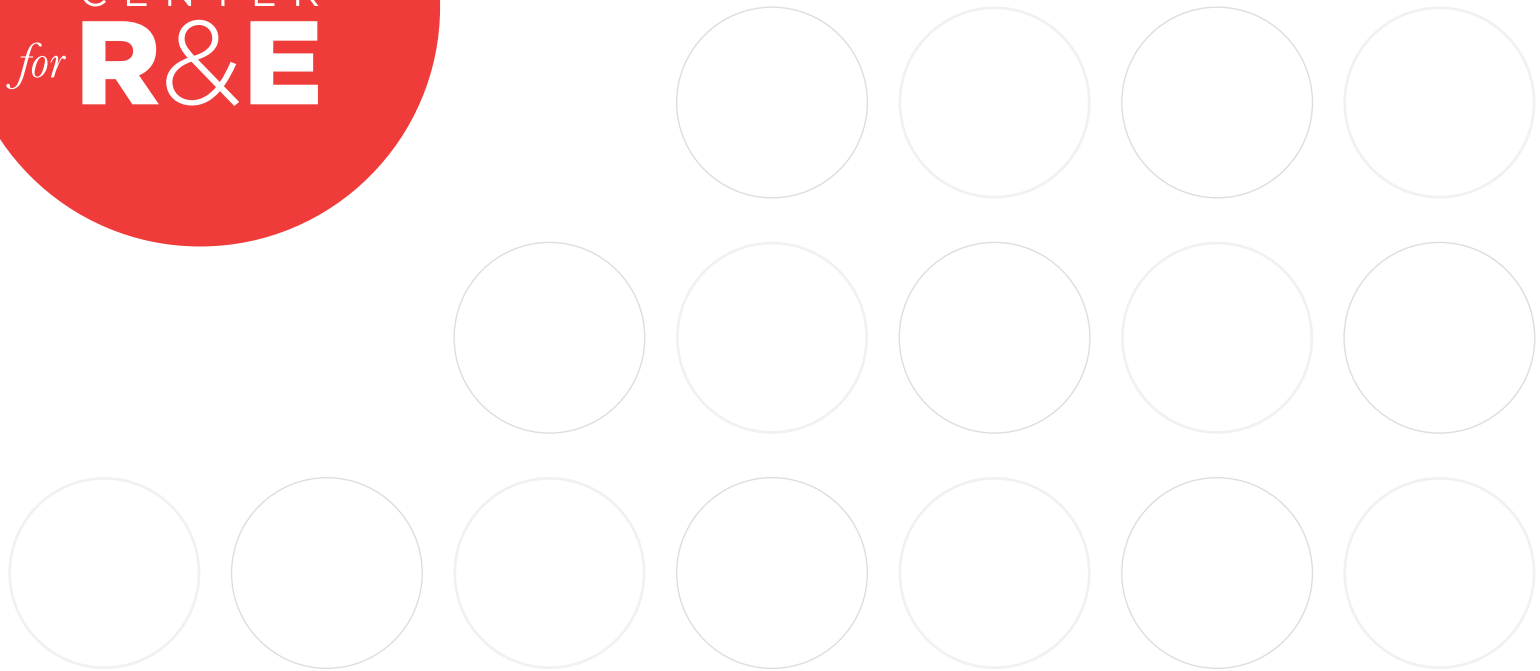


**Labor Exchange and Remittances**

# Research, Monitoring, & Evaluation



## RECCA Center for Research & Evaluation



# RECCA-VII Preparatory Meetings

## 1 RECCA Ambassadorial Coordination Meetings

- First RECCA Ambassadorial Coordination Meeting (Kabul, February 13, 2017)
- Second RECCA Ambassadorial Coordination Meeting (Kabul, July 10, 2017)
- Third RECCA Ambassadorial Coordination Meeting (Kabul, November 1, 2017)

## 2 RECCA National Focal Points Meetings

- First RECCA National Focal Points Meeting (Kabul, August 26, 2017)
- Second RECCA National Focal Points Meeting (Ashgabat, November 13, 2017)

## 3 RECCA Inter-Ministerial Meetings

- First Inter-Ministerial Meeting (Kabul, September 11, 2017)
- Second Inter-Ministerial Meeting (Kabul, October 30, 2017)

## 4 Additional Bilateral Preparatory Meetings (in Kabul and Ashgabat)

# RECCA-VII Program

## ■ DAY 1 – OPENING SESSION

- ▶ **Opening Session** of the Business Forum & The Special Event On Empowering Women Entrepreneurs Towards Access to Regional & International Markets





# RECCA-VII Program

## ■ DAY 1 – WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

- ▶ Around three major clusters: **1)** Energy and Natural Resources; **2)** Connectivity; and **3)** Trade facilitation, private sector development, and business-to-business cooperation



# RECCA-VII Program

## ■ DAY 1 — EXHIBITION & BUSINESS MATCHMAKING EVENT



# RECCA-VII Program

## ■ DAY 2 — MINISTERIAL MEETING

▶ **His Excellency Rashid Meredov, Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, His Excellency Sarwar Danish, Second Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and His Excellency Salahuddin Rabbani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan addressed the inauguration session.**

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▶ **HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT** chaired by H.E. Rashid Meredov and H.E. Salahuddin Rabbani with statements by Heads of Delegation (Ministers and Heads of Regional and International Organizations)

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▶ **PLENARY SESSION** chaired by the Deputy Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan and Turkmenistan with statements by the rest of the Delegations

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### ▶ **CLOSING SESSION**

- **Presentations** by the chairs/moderators of the Working Group Meetings, Academic Forum, Business Forum and the Special Event on Women's Entrepreneurship
  - **Adoption of the Declaration**
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▶ **Exhibition** – Whole Day

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# RECCA-VII Program

## ■ DAY 2 — The Signing Ceremony for the Lapis Lazuli Route Agreement



# RECCA-VII Program

## RECCA-VII ACADEMIC FORUM (October 13, 2017)



# RECCA 2.0

- **A platform for collective economic action and exchange, owned and operated by the people, businesses, and Governments of Central, South, and Southwest Asia**
- **Greater focus on implementation and synergy**
- **Greater focus on private sector participation**
- **New investment criteria and diversification of fund mobilization**

# 1. Establish a RECCA Center for Research & Evaluation

- **To promote information exchange, evaluation, shared analysis and joint research on priority regional projects and activities including under RECCA**
  - Prepare Annual Reviews
  - Develop Policy Papers (Brief Policy Series)
  - Conduct Joint Research
  - Prepare Bankable Project Briefs for Public and Private Investors (Investment Roadshows)

## **2. Stand-up a RECCA Chamber of Commerce & Industries to help mobilize governments and national chambers of commerce and industries in support of Investment Road Shows, Business Forums, and wider B2B cooperation**

- **A Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in the form of a regional network of leaders from Chambers of Commerce and Industries in Central, South, and Southwest Asia with a light secretariat based at ACCI in Kabul with a view to further regional business-to-business partnerships, trade, and investment expansion goals.**
  - Help initiate a series of Investment Road Shows to showcase lucrative investment opportunities across the broader region, based on bankable projects that will be developed by the RECCA Center for Research & Evaluation.
  - Help facilitate the convening of Business Forums and wider forms of B2B cooperation under RECCA.



### 3. Women's Economic Empowerment through Regional Economic Cooperation

- **Further integrate women's economic empowerment into the RECCA agenda in recognition of the fact that women across Central, South, and South Asia have much to contribute to the implementation of the platform's regional cooperation and investment projects, and that they also stand to benefit from their success.**
  - Promoting access for female entrepreneurs to economic markets across the region,
  - Targeted training and mentoring programs on business management skills for women,
  - Removing legal barriers to women's economic participation.
  - Engaging women entrepreneurs in the activities of the new RECCA Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Investment Road Shows and Business Forums, the biennial Ministerial and Academic Forum meetings of the platform

## 4. Build Strategic Partnerships between RECCA and other regional organizations and initiatives

- **Build greater synergy and complementarity between RECCA and other regional cooperation platforms with a view to further facilitate strategic coordination, knowledge-sharing, and connectivity at both regional and inter-regional levels.**
  - Improve synergy between RECCA and HoA-IP to ensure effective coordination, monitoring, and sharing of human, technical, and financial resources between the two frameworks.
  - Establish new Memorandums of Strategic Partnership (MSP) with, for example, CAREC, SAARC, ECO, Belt-and-Road Initiative, Middle Corridor , UNSPECA, SCO, etc.,

## 5. Transform the RECCA Website into an Interactive Web-Portal for Regional Investment Promotion and Knowledge Sharing

- **A transformed RECCA website could provide up-to-date details on regional cooperation projects, including status, performance, feasibility studies, economic impact assessments (e.g., as produced by the new RECCA Center for Research & Evaluation), and contract details for both public and private sector investment partner;**
  - The interactive web-portal could host online consultations and an annual student essay contest with youth from across Central, South, and Southwest Asia.
  - Efforts are also underway to connect the RECCA Website with the portal developed recently under the TCI-CBM of the Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process.

## 6. Ensure greater synergy between the RECCA's agenda and NPPs at a policy level and between RECCA and the Infrastructure Connectivity Council at an institutional level

- Bring synergy and complimentary between RECCA priority projects and the Afghan National Priority Programs (NPPs): *RECCA Annual Review 2016 provides a clear picture of the connections between the RECCA priority projects and NPPs including the National Infrastructure Plan; the Private Sector Development NPP, The Human Capital NPP, The Agriculture Development NPP, and the Women's Economic Empowerment NPP.*
- Among the six high-level councils established by the Afghan Government in advance of the 2016 Brussels Conference on Afghanistan is a new Infrastructure Connectivity Council. Greater synergy between RECCA and this council will prove critical to advancing the RECCA agenda.

## 7. Moving towards a RECCA Regional Economic Cooperation Strategy

- “RECCA 2.0” will facilitate the efforts towards a regional economic cooperation strategy with a view to achieve a maximum and unique regional socio-economic impact and ensure greater regional coordination, complementarity, and monitoring.

## **8. Enable and engage RECCA National Focal Points in support of RECCA priorities and activities**

- Serve as primary points of contact with the RECCA Secretariat with respect to prioritization, programming and implementation of the RECCA projects and activities.
- Help with follow-up and review at the national level.
- Provide policy recommendations.
- Facilitate the work of RECCA and relevant meetings.
- Define the agenda for the Ministerial Meeting.

# 9. Application of New Project Feasibility Criteria

**The following project feasibility criteria have been applied to the featured RECCA projects:**

- Must skillfully attract private sector investment (i.e. be “bankable”).

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- Must link (directly or indirectly) to the promotion of growth in trade, transit, or extractives.

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- Must put in place proper project management and governance arrangements.

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- Must encourage innovative Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) in support of broader kinds of private equity participation / private sector development

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- Must generate— above the opportunity cost of capital—sufficient cash flows and positive Net Present Value and Internal Rate of Return.

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- Can be implemented in a reasonable timeframe of around 12-36 months (or significant returns on investment can be realistically expected shortly thereafter).

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- Must place a premium on employment and public revenue in the region.

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- Must put in place a clear risk management and mitigation plan.

**Thank You!**

RECCA

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