CENTRAL ASIA CENTER

S7+ A U.S.-Aligned Framework for Economic Integration and Strategic Balance

WHAT IS THE S7+?

S7 is a proposed next-generation regional economic partnership uniting Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, through a common framework for trade, investment, and economic cooperation, creating the foundation for a more integrated and competitive regional economy.

The proposed framework envisages other neighboring countries will be able to join in time.

ANCHOR ECONOMIES

$373B Pakistan

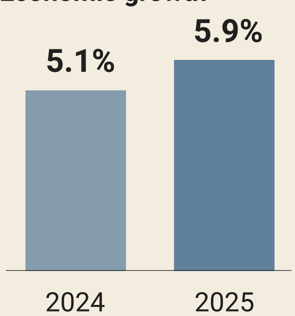
$288B Kazakhstan

$121B Uzbekistan (fastest-growing)

ECONOMIC SCALE (2024)

- **GDP: $971B**
  >$1T within 2–3 years

- **Economic growth**



WHY IT MATTERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

S7+ consolidates fragmented U.S. bilateral engagement into **one coherent platform for economic statecraft**.

DELIVERS FOR U.S. INTERESTS

- Supply chain resilience
- Critical minerals access
- Energy security
- China and Russia balancing
- Rules-based regional integration

WHY THE U.S. IS THE ONLY CREDIBLE CONVENER

- No territorial claims
- Trusted by all parties
- Capital markets and standards-setting power
- Proven regional frameworks (USMCA, IPEF, Quad)

WHY NOW?

- The window is open — but narrowing
- China signing mining contracts across Afghanistan
- Central Asia accelerating integration without U.S. input
- Pakistan pivoting away from CPEC Phase II
- TAPI construction has begun after 30 years of delays
- U.S.-C5 diplomatic momentum already underway

REGIONAL DEMAND IS CLEAR

States want options, not dependence on Beijing or Moscow.

Without S7+, the architecture hardens without Washington.

WHAT S7+ DELIVERS

1. Critical Minerals at Scale

Regional coordination that makes extraction, processing, and export viable on open terms.

2. Reduced China Dependency

Alternative corridors via Pakistan to global markets — leverage through choice.

3. Energy Security (TAPI)

Multilateral governance that turns construction into delivery.

4. Gwadar: The Maritime Chokepoint

- Nearest warm-water port to Central Asia and Afghanistan
- Direct access to:
  - GCC ($2T+ GDP)
  - East Africa
  - Southeast Asia
  - India
- Target: 400M tons capacity by 2045

5. Iran Bypass

Southern Corridor and Middle Corridor reduce Iranian transit leverage by design.

6. Digital & Institutional Capacity

- Pakistan as logistics, customs, and ICT backbone
- IT sector growing 25–35% annually
- $3.8B exports (FY25)

STRATEGIC ASSETS THE U.S. CANNOT IGNORE

Critical Minerals

- $2T+ in underground mineral wealth
- **Afghanistan:** >$1T (lithium, copper, rare earths, iron ore)
- **Kazakhstan:** 20M+ metric tons rare earths (2024)

Energy

- **TAPI Pipeline** (33 bcm/year) now under construction
- **Kazakhstan** possesses large coal deposits
- **Tajikistan** and **Kyrgyzstan** are rich in undeveloped hydropower
- The region also contains significant uranium reserves, important for nuclear energy

CONNECTIVITY AND THE MIDDLE CORRIDOR

- Middle Corridor cargo up **63%** in 2024
- Trans-Caspian route projected to **triple** by 2030
- China and EU moving fast — U.S. absent

EXECUTION: WHY NEW LINES INSTITUTE

New Lines is not convening theory — it is building delivery.

Role

- Designs regional economic institutions
- Runs Track 1.5 / Track 2 diplomacy
- Produces implementation-ready policy roadmaps
- Translates regional strategy into Washington action

Approach

- Afghanistan as an economic node, not a security problem
- Customs, transit, minerals, energy first — politics later

S7+ gives the United States a stake in the integration already happening — on rules-based terms — before the region locks into frameworks Washington did not build.

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