# Regional Economic Outlook Central Asia and Tajikistan

Aidyn Bibolov
Resident Representative in Tajikistan

Dushanbe
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## Outline

Global Outlook

CCA Outlook, Risks, and Policies

Tajikistan: Recent Economic Developments, Risks, and Policies



# Global recovery remains fragile

Geopolitical risks (Russia-Ukraine, Middle East)

Further risks to growth in emerging market economies

Risks related to normalization of monetary policy in advanced economies

Protracted period of slow growth in advanced economies



## An Uneven Global Recovery Continues

#### WEO Real GDP Growth Projections

(percent change from a year earlier)











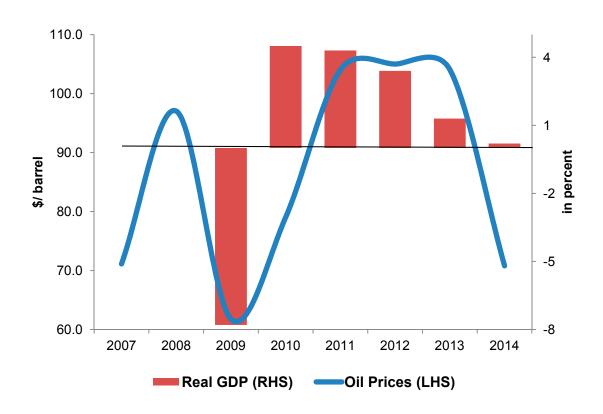


	World	U.S.	Euro Area	Emerging markets	China	Russia
2013	3.3	2.2	-0.4	4.7	7.7	1.3
2014						
(August 2014)	3.3	2.2	0,8	4.5	7.4	0.2
<b>2014</b> (April 2014)	3.6	2.8	1.2	4.9	7.5	1.3
2015						$\square$
(August 2014)	3,8	3.1	1.4	5.0	7.1	0,5
<b>2015</b> (April 2014)	3.9	3.0	1.5	5.3	7.3	2.3



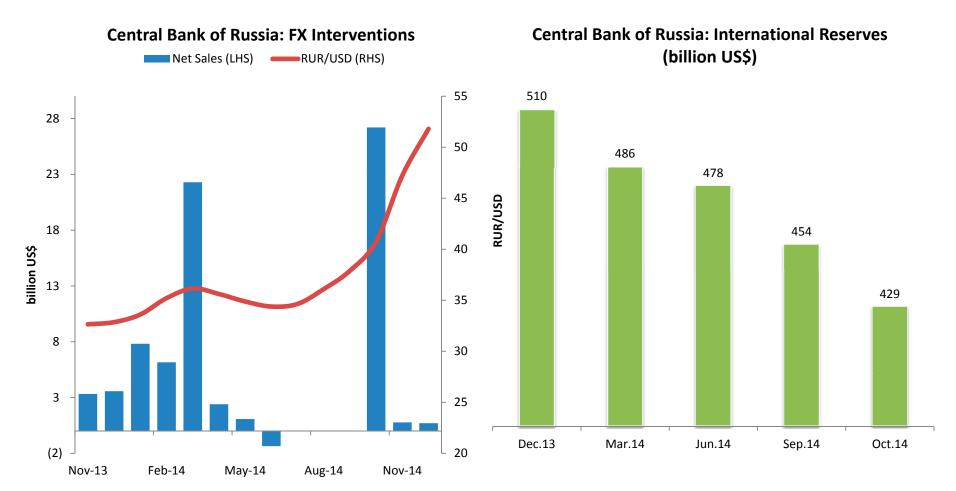
#### Risks to Russian economy remain elevated

#### Oil Prices and Economic Growth in Russia





#### The CBR remains committed to Inflation Targeting and intervenes occasionally.





## Caucasus and Central Asia



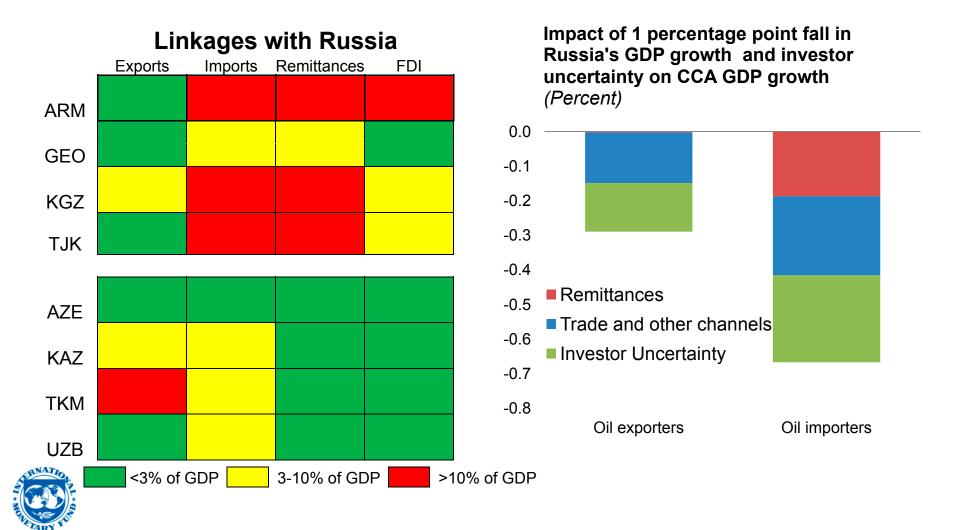


# Growth is slowing due to spillovers from Russia and weaker domestic demand, yet remains robust

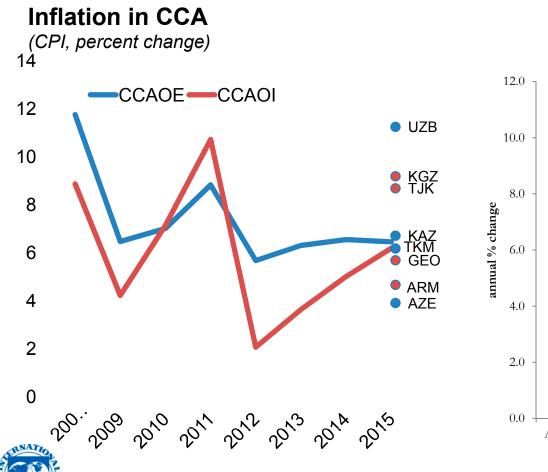
#### **Real GDP Growth** (Annual percent change) 12 TKM 10 CCA Oil Exporters CCA Oil Importers 8 Russia 6 4 ARM 2 0 2012 2014 2011 2013 2015



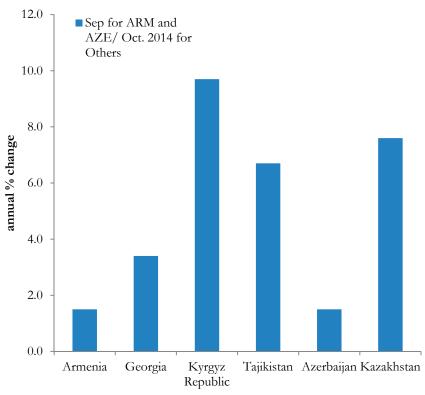
# Close linkages with Russia create downside risks to the outlook



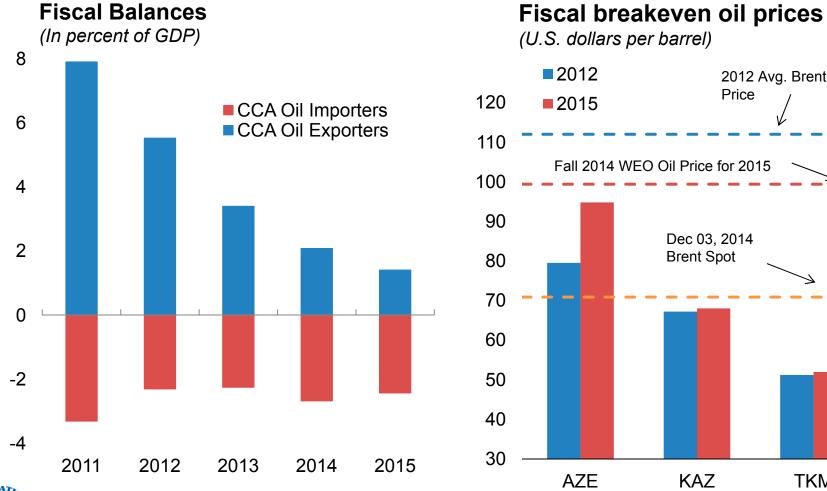
# Despite slowing growth, inflationary pressures are rising

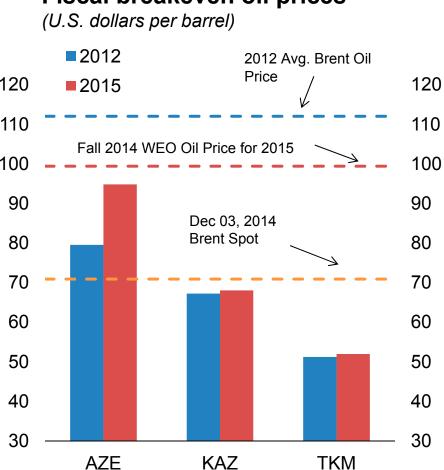


#### **CPI** Inflation in CCA



#### Fiscal positions are vulnerable

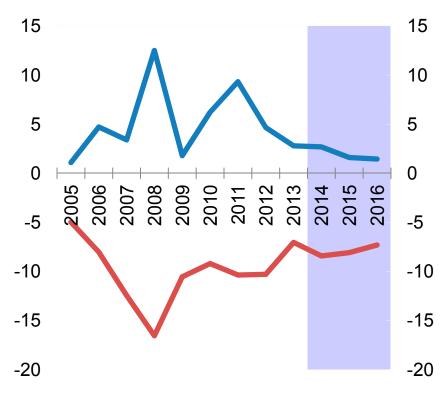






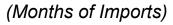
# External positions are weakening

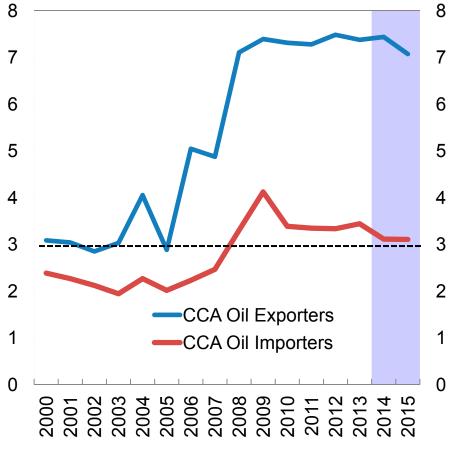
# Current Account Balances (Percent of GDP)



#### CCA Oil Exporters — CCA Oil Importers

#### **Reserve Coverage**

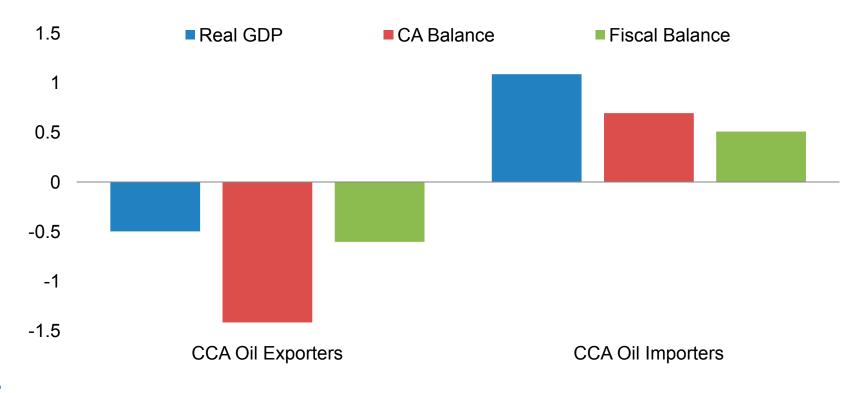




# Continued low oil prices would have mixed effects on the CCA oil exporters and importers

# Effects of a 20 Percent Decline in Oil Prices from the Fall 2014 WEO Baseline, 2015

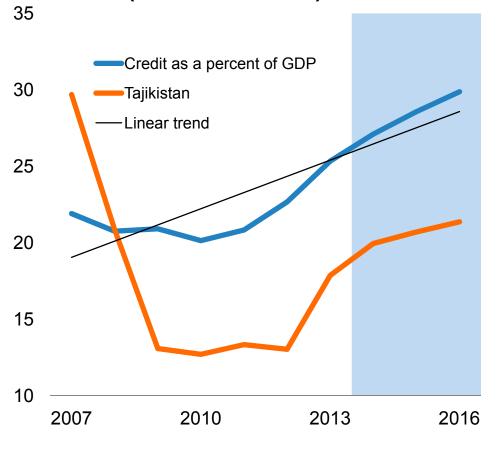
(Percent of GDP)





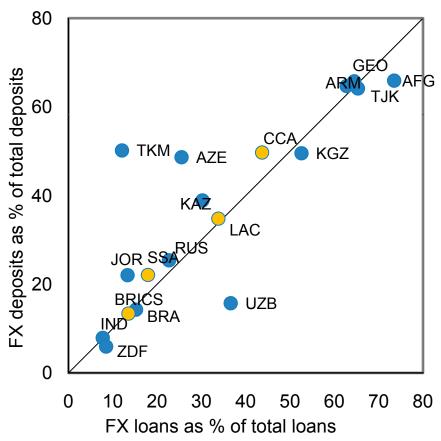
## Financial risks (old and new) are significant

# Private Sector Credit to GDP vs. Trend (in CCA and TJK)



#### **High Dollarization**

(latest year available)







# Medium-term Policy Priorities

# Bolder Structural Reforms

• Structural reforms, especially in areas of governance and regulation, to address weak growth potential and low inclusiveness.

# Wider Economic Integration

• Balanced regional and multilateral trade integration initiatives, to diversify economies and improve medium-term growth prospects.

# Stronger Policy Frameworks

- Fiscal: More fiscal transparency, and stronger medium-term budget frameworks.
- Monetary: Modern monetary policy regimes with clear interest rate guidance, and widening exchange rate bands, to provide an anchor to the economy.

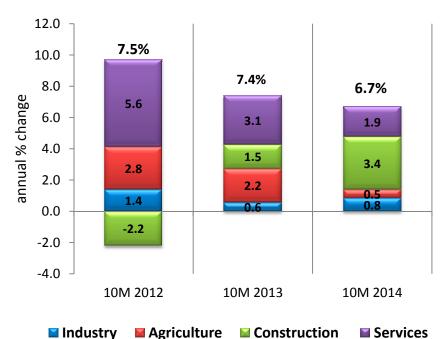
# Tajikistan relies more on construction rather than remittances driven growth

#### **GDP and Remittances**

#### Percent change Percent of GDP 9m-2014

—Workers' remittances (RHS)

#### **Sector Contributions to GDP growth**

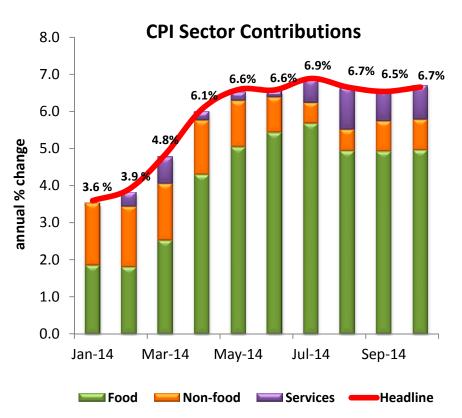




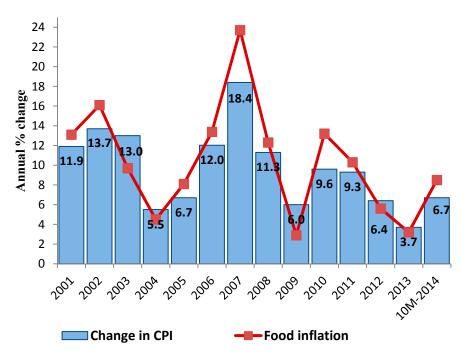
GDP growth (LHS)



#### Inflation remains highly vulnerable to external shocks



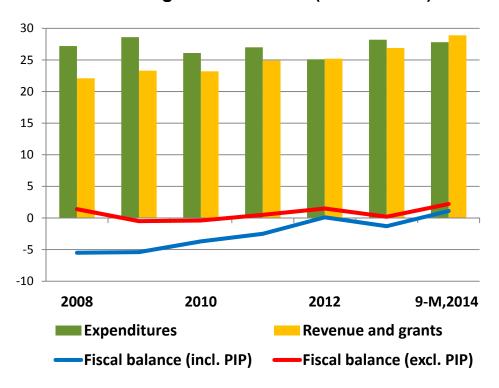
#### **Headline CPI and Food Prices**



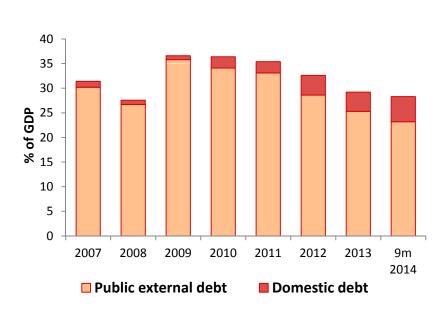


#### **Fiscal Performance**

#### **State Budget Performance (in % of GDP)**

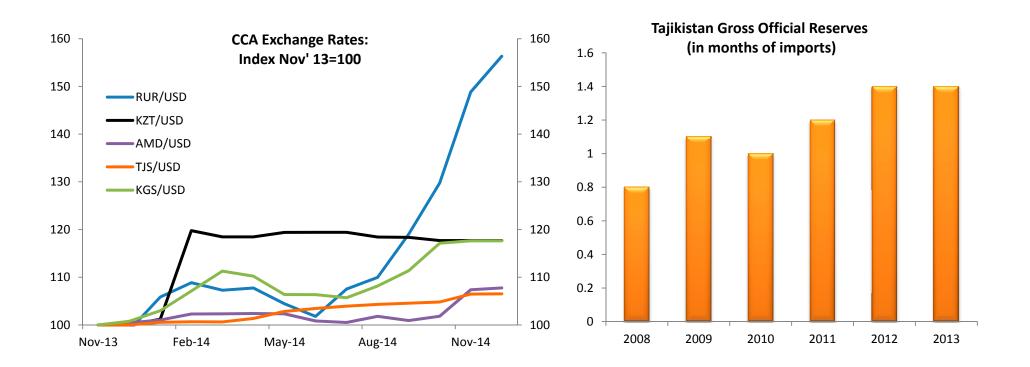


#### **Public Debt (in % of GDP)**





# **Monetary and Financial Sector**







### **Policy Recommendations**

- To increase resilience against shocks, the country needs to buildup additional external and fiscal buffers while introducing more exchange rate flexibility
- To mitigate potential quasi-fiscal risks to the budget, SOE monitoring and governance should be improved
- Stronger financial sector can play a better role in helping economic growth in the country
- In the medium term, structural reforms in the area of business environment, diversification of the economy and strengthening of regional cooperation can further help growth and job creation