



ASTANA

INTERNATIONAL

FORUM | 29-30 MAY 2025
KAZAKHSTAN

ASTANA INTERNATIONAL FORUM 2025

Connecting Minds, Shaping the Future

Astana, Kazakhstan
May 29-30, 2025

www.astanainternationalforum.org



Distinguished Guests,

The Astana International Forum has become a premier global platform for change, convening each year the world's leading thought-leaders and decision-makers to forge practical solutions through open dialogue, multilateral cooperation, and collective action on the most urgent challenges of our time.

As I reflect on the challenges facing our world today, I am struck by the continued impact of many crises but also by the ways in which they are reshaping our global landscape in fundamental ways. From geopolitical upheavals and economic shocks to pandemics and the resurgence of violent extremism, each challenge triggers another search for answers, another struggle to devise collaborative solutions.

This is the conviction that drives the Astana International Forum. Against a backdrop of uncertainty and growing skepticism, it offers a space – and a critical opportunity – for global leaders, thinkers, and doers, to come together to chart a new path forward. Above all, it provides an essential platform to engage in dialogue with a purpose: the promotion of cooperation, innovation and prosperity.

The Astana International Forum has become a premier global platform for change, convening each year the world's leading thought-leaders and decision-makers to forge practical solutions through open dialogue, multilateral cooperation, and collective action on the most urgent challenges of our time.

Uniquely situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Kazakhstan bridges East and West. This strategic vantage point on the world – geographically, culturally, and politically – positions us to drive these crucial conversations and to foster meaningful collaboration among the world's foremost policymakers, business leaders, and public intellectuals.

AIF 2025 is poised to once again re-energize the global community, offering fresh perspectives and collaborative solutions to some of the most critical challenges facing humanity today.

I look forward to welcoming you to Astana for AIF2025.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev
President of the Republic
of Kazakhstan

OUR VISION

Over the course of two days, the Astana International Forum will host dozens of speakers from around the world on more than 50 panels and side events.

Our program has been designed to address the most demanding global challenges of today. Under the overarching theme **“Connecting Minds, Shaping the Future”**, the Forum’s vision for the future is divided to address three overarching themes.



FOREIGN POLICY AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY



ENERGY
AND CLIMATE CHANGE



ECONOMY AND FINANCE



OUR MISSION

CONNECTING MINDS, SHAPING THE FUTURE

The Astana International Forum (AIF) brings together leaders, policymakers, scholars and experts from across the globe to spark meaningful dialogue and forge clear, actionable responses to our most pressing shared challenges. By uniting diverse perspectives, the Forum advances international cooperation

and mutual understanding on critical issues – ranging from foreign policy and security to climate change and the economy – while championing innovative, practical solutions grounded in the principles of peace, sustainability and progress.

OUR IMPACT

Since its foundation, the Astana International Forum has played a vital role in convening leaders and experts to develop practical responses to the most urgent challenges facing our societies.

In light of shifting geopolitical realities and the need to forge effective, long-term partnerships, the Forum is ideally positioned to serve as a hub for open, constructive dialogue that shapes public debate across international borders.

By engaging with global specialists from a variety of fields, the Forum fosters multi-stakeholder initiatives that directly influence global governance and geopolitical narratives. Acting as a global town hall, it gives participants a platform to amplify their ideas for change.



THE FORUM IN NUMBERS

2 CONFERENCE
DAYS

40+ PANELS, SIDE EVENTS
AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

3 MAJOR
THEMES

100+ SPEAKERS AND
MODERATORS

10+ HALLS

10+ MINISTERS

100+ AMBASSADORS
AND DIPLOMATS

10000+ INTERNATIONAL
GUESTS

20+ PARTNERS
AND SPONSORS

10+ NETWORKING AND
SOCIAL EVENTS

70+ COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

DAY 1 SCHEDULE

MAY 29TH 2025

7:30 - 8:30	SECURITY CHECKING
8:30 - 9:30	WELCOME COFFEE BREAK
10:30 - 12:15	PLENARY SESSION (by invitation only)
13:00 - 14:00	NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK
13:00 - 14:00	GENERAL SECURITY CHECKING
14:00 - 14:30	1-ON-1 SESSION WITH SEBASTIAN KURZ, FORMER CHANCELLOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Tony Barber, Former Columnist, Financial Times
14:30 - 15:30	WATER SECURITY AS A KEY INVESTMENT FOR CENTRAL ASIA'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Viorel Gutu, Assistant Director- General/Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, FAO Session Partner - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
14:30 - 15:30	TRADE AS A WEAPON: THE FUTURE OF ECONOMIC STATECRAFT CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Hanako Montgomery, International Correspondent, CNN
14:30 - 15:30	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN THE ERA OF AI ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor Moderator - Kairat Torebayev, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the WTO and international economic organizations Session Partner - Ministry of Justice/WIPO
14:30 - 15:30	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN THE ERA OF AI AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre Moderator - Andrei Mikhnev, Country Manager for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, World Bank Group Session Partner - Ministry of Justice/WIPO
14:30 - 15:30	EURASIA: UNLOCKING GROWTH, EMBRACING GLOBAL TRENDS BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor Moderator - Nikolai Podguzov, Chairman, Eurasian Development Bank Session Partner - Eurasia Development Bank

DAY 1 SCHEDULE

MAY 29TH 2025

14:30 – 15:00	1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ANTE ŠUŠNJAR, MINISTER OF ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Max Foster, Anchor, CNN
15:00 – 15:30	1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ROBERT FRIEDLAND, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE CO-CHAIRMAN OF IVANHOE MINES ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Ryan Chilcote, Former CNN and Bloomberg
15:30 – 16:00	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK
16:00 – 16:30	1-ON-1 SESSION WITH AMY E. POPE, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM) ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Max Foster, Anchor, CNN
16:00 – 17:00	ENERGY SECURITY IN 2025: BALANCING TRANSITION AND STABILITY CASPIAN HALL, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Bolat Akchulakov, Chairman, KAZENERGY Association Session Partner - KazEnergy
16:00 – 17:00	CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD: UN AT 80 AND THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Stephen O'Malley, Resident Coordinator in Kazakhstan, UN Session Partner - United Nations
16:00 – 16:30	1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ROBERT THOMSON, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL HEAD OF GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT AT VISA ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Charlotte Kan, Journalist, Former Bloomberg
16:00 – 17:00	THE NEXT DECADE OF POWER: REDEFINING GLOBAL INFLUENCE ALTAY HALL, Congress Centre, Second Floor Moderator - Charles McLean, Founder and Managing Director, Borderless Consulting Group
16:00 – 17:00	ALATAU CITY: THE FUTURE IS NOW BURABAY HALL, Congress Centre, Second Floor Moderator - Zhandos Shaimardanov, Vice-Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan Session Partner - City of Alatau

DAY 1 SCHEDULE

MAY 29TH 2025

16:30 - 17:00	1-ON-1 SESSION WITH WILLIAM SHUM, CHAIRMAN, HONG KONG CPPCC YOUTH ASSOCIATION, FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MEMORIGIN WATCH COMPANY ALMATY HALL, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Charlotte Kan, Journalist, Former Bloomberg
19:00 - 20:00	GALA CONCERT (by invitation only)
20:00	EVENING RECEPTION AND GALA DINER (by invitation only)

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

MAY 30TH 2025

07:30 – 8:30	SECURITY CHECKING
08:30 – 9:30	WELCOME COFFEE BREAK
10:30 – 11:00	SPECIAL SESSION (BY INVITATION ONLY) ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor
12:00 – 13:00	THE NEXT SILK ROADS: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL TRADE ASTANA HALL, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator – Hanako Montgomery, International Correspondent, CNN
12:00 – 13:00	CENTRAL ASIA’S NEXT DECADE: EMERGING AS A GLOBAL CROSSROAD CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Ariel Cohen, Managing Director – Energy, Growth, and Security Program at the International Tax and Investment Center
12:00 – 13:00	BUILDING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: OECD’S PERSPECTIVE TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Moderator - Daniel Witt, President of the International Tax and Investment Center Session Partner - OECD
12:00 – 13:00	1-ON-1 SESSION WITH HAJI NOORUDDIN AZIZI, MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF AFGHANISTAN ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Charles McLean, Founder and Managing Director, Borderless Consulting Group
12:00 – 13:00	1-ON-1 SESSION WITH HAJI NOORUDDIN AZIZI, MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF AFGHANISTAN ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Charles McLean, Founder and Managing Director, Borderless Consulting Group
13:00 – 14:00	NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

MAY 30TH 2025

<p>14:15 – 15:15</p>	<p>FUTURE DYNAMICS: MIDDLE POWERS IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Darren Spinck, Associate Fellow, The Henry Jackson Society</p>
<p>14:15 – 15:15</p>	<p>THE INNOVATION CHALLENGE: MAKING CLIMATE ACTION WORK FOR ALL CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Joshua Lincoln, Senior Fellow, The Fletcher School Tufts University Session Partner - ECOJER</p>
<p>14:15 – 15:15</p>	<p>SECURING THE FUTURE: ADVANCING ECONOMIC STABILITY IN A SHIFTING WORLD TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Andrei Mikhnev, Country Manager for Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, World Bank Group Session Partner - Doha Forum</p>
<p>14:15 – 15:15</p>	<p>1-ON-1 SESSION WITH FEDERICA MOGHERINI, RECTOR OF THE COLLEGE OF EUROPE AND DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Tony Barber, Former Columnist, Financial Times</p>
<p>14:15 – 15:15</p>	<p>DIGITAL ASSET REVOLUTION: ASTANA ON THE GLOBAL MAP OF DIGITAL FINANCE ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor Moderator - Evgenia Bogdanova, CEO of Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA) Session Partner - AIFC</p>
<p>14:15 – 15:15</p>	<p>POTENTIAL AND PERSPECTIVES FOR CARBON MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor Moderator - Bakhyt Yessekina, Director of Scientific Research and Education Center “Green Academy” Session Partner - Green Academy</p>
<p>14:15 – 15:15</p>	<p>1-ON-1 SESSION WITH AMANDEEP SINGH GILL, UN UNDERSECRETARY-GENERAL AND SECRETARY-GENERAL’S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DIGITAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Jeremy White, Senior Innovation Editor, WIRED</p>
<p>15:30 – 16:30</p>	<p>THE NEXT DECADE OF AI: REDEFINING GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWER ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Jeremy White, Senior Innovation Editor, WIRED</p>

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

MAY 30TH 2025

15:30 – 16:30	<p>THE RESOURCE RACE: WHO CONTROLS THE GREEN FUTURE CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Eric Rudenshiold, Research Director and Senior Fellow, Caspian Policy Center</p>
15:30 – 16:30	<p>UNLOCKING ECONOMIC POTENTIAL: ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Dan Baxter, Vice President, Corporate Communications, Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, Visa Session Partner - ASMAR</p>
15:30 – 16:30	<p>1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ALASTAIR CAMPBELL, JOURNALIST, POLITICAL STRATEGIST ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Charlotte Kan, Journalist, Former Bloomberg</p>
15:30 – 16:30	<p>THE CHALLENGES OF RECONSTRUCTION: TOWARDS A NEW BALANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor Moderator - Charles McLean, Founder and Managing Director, Borderless Consulting Group</p>
15:30 – 18:00	<p>CONFERENCE ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE NEIGHBOURHOOD CO-OPERATION PRIORITIES WITH KAZAKHSTAN 2024-2027 BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor Moderator - Claus Neukirch, Director of Programme Co-ordination, Council of Europe Session Partner - Council of Europe</p>
16:00 – 16:30	<p>1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ALAIN BERSET, SECRETARY GENERAL OF COUNCIL OF EUROPE ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Tony Barber, Former Columnist, Financial Times</p>
16:30 – 17:00	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK
17:00 – 18:00	<p>NAVIGATING THE NEW DEAL- MAKING ERA: POWER DYNAMICS IN THE EVOLVING GLOBAL ORDER ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Isabelle Lasserre, Diplomatic Correspondent, Le Figaro</p>
17:00 – 18:00	<p>KAZAKHSTAN'S PRIVATE EQUITY FRONTIER: CAPITALIZING ON HIGH-GROWTH MARKET DYNAMICS CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre Moderator - Marcia Favale, Independent Director, Qazaqstan Investment Corporation Session Partner - Baiterek</p>

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

MAY 30TH 2025

<p>17:00 – 17:30</p>	<p>1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ASKARBEK ALSHANBAYEV, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOR STRATEGY AND PRODUCTS OF JSC “TRASNTELECOM” ALMATY Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Daniel Witt, President of the International Tax and Investment Center</p>
<p>17:00 – 18:00</p>	<p>SOVEREIGN GREEN BONDS: UNLOCKING FINANCING FOR NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AGENDA ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre Moderator - Bakytzhan Karogoishin, Managing Director of Freedom Bank Kazakhstan Session Partner - AIFC</p>
<p>17:00 – 18:00</p>	<p>ENHANCING ENERGY CONNECTIVITY FOR A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE KAZAKHSTAN ENERGY SYSTEM TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre, Ground Floor Moderator - Dario Liguti, Director, Sustainable Energy, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Session Partner – ESCAP/UNECE</p>
<p>From 19:00</p>	<p>EXPO SIDE - OPEN AIR STAGE (FOR DELEGATES/PARTICIPANTS)</p>



ASTANA
INTERNATIONAL
FORUM | 2025

CONNECTING MINDS,
SHAPING THE FUTURE

29-30 MAY 2025

THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE FORUM

Venue: ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

His Excellency Kassym-Jomart Tokayev,
President of the Republic
of Kazakhstan

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will open the 2025 Astana International Forum with a Plenary Session, convening international leaders for dialogue on the globe's most critical issues.

In 2025, the high level Plenary Session will bring together heads of state, government leaders, and executives of renowned international organizations on one stage, with President Kassym Jomart Tokayev articulating the Forum's global vision and strategic priorities.



MODERATOR

Julia Chatterley,
Former CNN Anchor

Speakers will engage in an in-depth review of the world's current state and the prevailing narratives that drive today's most significant geopolitical conversations. This flagship gathering will then launch an agenda of dedicated discussion platforms alongside a wide array of side events, covering themes from climate change and energy transition to international diplomacy and security.

By uniting these sessions under one roof, the Plenary Session sets the tone for robust, solution-oriented dialogue throughout AIF 2025.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



His Excellency Paul Kagame
President of the Republic of
Rwanda



Alain Berset
Secretary General of the Council
of Europe



**Her Excellency Gordana
Siljanovska Davkova**
President of the Republic
of North Macedonia



Ban Ki-moon
President and Chair of the
Global Green Growth Institute
and the 8th Secretary-General
of the UN



Qu Dongyu
Director-General of the Food
and Agriculture Organization
(FAO)



FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

ENHANCING REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND UNLEASHING DEVELOPMENT POTENTIALS

Venue: TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Jun Zhang

Secretary-General, Boao Forum for Asia

The Boao Forum for Asia, in collaboration with the Astana International Forum, will host a Panel Session on enhancing regional connectivity and unlocking development potential. Amid global instability and setbacks to the Sustainable Development Goals, the session will focus on infrastructure gaps, digital transformation, trade facilitation, and clean energy development as key pathways to economic integration and sustainable growth in Central Asia. With growing cross-border cooperation and rising momentum in digital strategies, the region is well-positioned to become a major hub for Asia-Europe trade and innovation.



SESSION PARTNERS

Boao Forum for Asia

SPEAKERS



Ban Ki-moon

Chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia, 8th Secretary General of the UN

This high-level event will bring together senior government officials, business leaders, international organizations, and think tanks to exchange best practices and offer actionable solutions. It will aim to build consensus around enhancing “hard” and “soft” connectivity, strengthening supply chains, and advancing digital and energy cooperation across the region. The outcomes will support broader regional collaboration mechanisms such as the SCO, CICA, and EAEU, and contribute to achieving the SDGs and the Paris Agreement goals.



Shamshad Akhtar

Member of Council of Advisors of the BFA, Former Under-Secretary General United Nations



Volkan Bozkir

President of the 75th UN General Assembly



Piao Yangfan

Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization



Alibek Kuantyrov

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan



Feng Yanqiu

Managing Director Silk Road Fund

CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD: UN AT 80 AND THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE

Venue: TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Stephen O'Malley
UN Resident Coordinator
in Kazakhstan



**United
Nations**

SESSION PARTNERS
United Nations

As the United Nations approaches its 80th anniversary in 2025, the global landscape is marked by unprecedented challenges and complex interdependencies. The current geopolitical tensions, economic disparities, climate crisis, technological advancements, and governance gaps demand bold and coordinated action. Against this backdrop, the Summit of the Future has emerged as a critical juncture to reinforce multilateralism and enhance global cooperation.

SPEAKERS



Amandeep Singh Gill
UN Under- Secretary- General
and Secretary- General's Special
Envoy for Digital and Emerging
Technologies



Tatiana Molcean
Executive Secretary United
Nations Economic Commission
for Europe



Felipe Paullier
Assistant Secretary- General for
Youth Affairs, United Nations
Youth Office



Akan Rakhmetullin
First Deputy Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of
Kazakhstan

The Pact for the Future, alongside the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations, represents a transformative vision for international relations. These initiatives aim to modernize the global governance system, ensure equitable financial frameworks, advance digital cooperation, and prioritize the interests of future generations in decision-making. The reforms proposed in these agreements seek to restore trust in multilateral institutions, address systemic inequalities, and ensure that global mechanisms remain fit for purpose in the XXI century.

This panel session will bring together leaders from the UN, business, technology, and civil society to discuss ways for implementing the Pact for the Future, strengthening multilateral cooperation, and addressing key global challenges through inclusive and innovative solutions.

THE NEXT DECADE OF POWER: REDEFINING GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Venue: ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Charles McLean

Founder and Managing
Director, Borderless
Consulting Group

As the global landscape undergoes rapid transformation, the traditional levers of power are being challenged and redefined. Over the next decade, geopolitical influence will be shaped not only by military and economic might, but also by new forms of strategic capital: technological supremacy, data control, resilient supply chains, access to critical resources, and the ability to lead global narratives.

SPEAKERS



Christoph Heusgen

Former Chairman,
Munich Security Conference

This session will examine how the foundations of global influence are evolving and which capabilities, alliances, and assets will be decisive in defining power in the years to come. From the rise of middle powers and regional blocs to the increasing role of private sector actors and emerging technologies, panelists will explore the dynamics of a more multipolar and interconnected world.



Bruno Fuchs

Chairman, International Affairs
Committee of the National
Assembly

Key questions will include: What will define a “powerful” nation in 2035? How will influence be exercised - through cooperation, competition, or coercion? And what strategies should states adopt to remain relevant on the global stage?



David Chikvaidze

Vice- President, Swiss Forum
for International Affairs
(FSPI); Associate Fellow,
Geneva Centre for Security Policy



David Aptsiauri

General Director of Georgian
Chamber of Commerce and
Industry



Peter Frankopan

Professor of Global History,
Worcester College,
University of Oxford

CENTRAL ASIA'S NEXT DECADE: EMERGING AS A GLOBAL CROSSROAD

Venue: CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Ariel Cohen

Managing Director –
Energy, Growth, and
Security Program at the
International Tax and
Investment Center

Central Asia stands at a pivotal moment in its development, increasingly asserting itself as a vital connector between the East and the West. This session explores how the Central Asian nations are leveraging their strategic geographic position, natural resources, and renewed diplomatic engagement to redefine their role in the international order.

SPEAKERS



Kaha Imnadze

Special Representative of the
Secretary- General and Head
of the United Nations Regional
Centre for Preventive Diplomacy
for Central Asia

The panel will examine the region's ambitious infrastructure developments, evolving relationships with surrounding powers, and efforts to build intra-regional cooperation. Experts will assess how Central Asian states are balancing relationships with their neighbours, and other key partners while pursuing an independent foreign policy.



Roza Otunbayeva

Special Representative of
the Secretary- General for
Afghanistan and Head of the
United Nations Assistance
Mission in Afghanistan

The discussion will offer insights into economic diversification efforts, regional security challenges, and the implications of Central Asia's emergence as a crucial transit and energy corridor for global trade patterns and geopolitical alignments.



Eric Rudenshiold

Research Director and Senior
Fellow, Caspian Policy Center



Abdulhamid Alkhalifa

President of OPEC Fund



Michael Levystone

Specialist at the Center for
European and Eurasian Studies
at INALCO

KAZAKHSTAN AND AFRICA: UNLOCKING NEW FRONTIERS OF COOPERATION

Venue: ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Lassina Zerbo
 Former Prime
 Minister of Burkina Faso

SPEAKERS



Olivier Jean Patrick Nduhungirehe
 Minister of Foreign Affairs and
 Cooperation of the Republic of
 Rwanda



Denis Christel Sassou-N'Guesso
 Minister of International
 Cooperation and Promotion of
 Public-Private Partnerships of
 the Republic of Congo



Ooni Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi
 King of Ife



Alibek Kuantyrov
 Deputy Minister of Foreign
 Affairs of Kazakhstan



Driss Benomar
 President of the Alomra Group,
 President and Founder of
 the Centre for Geostrategic
 Research and Studies Atlantis



Ivor Ichikowitz
 Founder of Paramount Group

Kazakhstan and Africa are forging a dynamic partnership driven by shared priorities in economic growth, sustainable development, and global stability. Despite geographical distance, both Kazakhstan and Africa nations have rapidly evolving economies, abundant natural resources, and growing focus on regional and global integration. As emerging middle powers, they have the potential to shape multipolar cooperation and contribute to sustainable progress. This panel session will explore how both sides can leverage their respective strengths to build long-term, mutually beneficial partnerships across key sectors.

In recent years, Kazakhstan has actively expanded its engagement with Africa, recognizing the continent's strategic importance as a fast-growing economic hub with vast human and natural resources. Kazakhstan's approach to sustainable economic growth - rooted in economic diversification, food security, digital transformation, and green energy - aligns with Africa's ambitions for industrialization, technological advancement, and self-sufficiency. By fostering deeper collaboration, Kazakhstan and African countries can unlock new trade, and investment opportunities, enhance technological exchanges, and build resilient, future-ready economies.

This panel session will bring together policymakers, business leaders, and experts to identify actionable strategies for deepening Kazakhstan-Africa cooperation, ensuring that partnerships translate into tangible economic and developmental gains.

FUTURE DYNAMICS: MIDDLE POWERS IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

Venue: ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Darren Spinck

Associate Fellow,
The Henry Jackson
Society

As the international system evolves beyond traditional superpower dominance, middle powers are establishing increasingly significant roles in global governance. This session examines how nations with substantial but not dominant economic, military, and diplomatic capabilities are forming new partnerships, exercising regional leadership, and shaping multilateral institutions.

SPEAKERS



Akan Rakhmetullin

First Deputy Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of
Kazakhstan

The expert panel will analyze how these middle powers navigate great power competition while pursuing strategic autonomy and international engagement. The discussion will explore innovative diplomatic approaches, economic strategies, and security arrangements being developed by these nations. Particular attention will be paid to how middle powers may shape international norms, build issue-based alliances, and serve as mediators or constructive partners in addressing global challenges over the next five years.



Kairat Sarybay

Secretary General,
CICA



Thomas Greminger

Director of the Geneva Centre
for Security Policy



Michel Duclos

Special Advisor and
Resident Senior Fellow,
Institute Montaigne

THE CHALLENGES OF RECONSTRUCTION: TOWARDS A NEW BALANCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Venue: ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Charles McLean

Founder and Managing
Director, Borderless
Consulting Group

The Middle East stands at a critical inflection point following seismic shifts in regional dynamics, including regime change in Syria, evolving conflict in Gaza, and renewed US-Iran talks. This session examines how these developments are fundamentally restructuring power balances, alliance systems, and governance models across the region.

SPEAKERS



Tobias Ellwood

Former Member of the UK
Parliament and Parliamentary
Under- Secretary of State for
Middle East and North Africa

The panel will explore competing visions for regional stability amid these transitions, assessing how fragile ceasefires and emerging political arrangements might evolve into durable settlements. Particular attention will be given to Syria's uncertain future as a case study in post-conflict reconstruction, where new power dynamics between local actors and international stakeholders are taking shape.



Karin Von Hippel

Former Director-General of RUSI

Panelists will evaluate the impact of American diplomatic priorities under the Trump administration, the prospects for Iran nuclear negotiations, and how traditional regional powers are navigating these shifts. The session offers an opportunity to debate whether these developments might lead toward greater regional integration or deeper fragmentation in this strategically vital region.



Andrew Gilmour

Former UN Assistant Secretary-
General for Human Rights



Jonathan Panikoff

Director, Scowcroft Middle East
Security Initiative,
Atlantic Council

NAVIGATING THE NEW DEAL-MAKING ERA: POWER DYNAMICS IN THE EVOLVING GLOBAL ORDER

Venue: ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Isabelle Lasserre
Diplomatic
Correspondent,
Le Figaro

The global political and economic landscape is undergoing a fundamental shift as traditional alliances, shared values, and multilateral frameworks increasingly give way to bilateral deal-making and explicit exchanges of benefit.

SPEAKERS



Datuk Nur Zhazlan bin Tan Sri Mohamed
Deputy President of the Senate
Parliament of Malaysia

Speakers will explore how countries of varying sizes and economic might are adapting to this emerging paradigm—from large powers leveraging economic clout to secure favourable terms, to middle power nations developing innovative strategies to increase their influence.



Charles Powell
Director,
Elcano Royal Institute

The panel will address critical questions: How are traditional alliances being redefined in this more pragmatic landscape? What opportunities and challenges does this present for emerging economies? And what becomes of smaller nations with limited leverage in a system that increasingly rewards negotiating power?



Bruno Tertrais
Deputy Director of the
Fondation pour la recherche
stratégique



Rüdiger Frank
Professor at the Department
of East Asian Studies at the
University of Vienna



Brianne Todd
Professor of Practice at the
Department of Defense's Near
East South Asia Center for
Strategic Studies



ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

WATER SECURITY AS A KEY INVESTMENT FOR CENTRAL ASIA'S SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Venue: ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Viorel Gutu

Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia, FAO



SESSION PARTNER

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The panel moderated by Viorel Gutu will discuss how water security is becoming one of the most pressing challenges in Central Asia, driven by climate change, outdated infrastructure, and unsustainable water use. The region's reliance on glacier-fed rivers, uneven water distribution, and deteriorating irrigation systems threaten both environmental sustainability and socio-economic stability. Nearly half of the land is affected by degradation, costing the region an estimated USD 6 billion annually. Strategic investments in efficient technologies, modern irrigation, and institutional reform are essential to reverse these trends and ensure long-term water resilience.

SPEAKERS



Qu Dongyu

Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



Kanat Bozumbayev

Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Mohamed Mansouri

Director of FAO Investment Center



Kyriacos Kakouris

Board Member, Vice-President European Investment Bank



Wiebke Schloemer

Director for Turkiye and Central Asia, IFC



Hüseyin Özhan

Managing Director for Central Asia and Mongolia, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

International financial institutions, including the World Bank, ADB, EBRD, and EDB, are playing a growing role in advancing water security through infrastructure modernization, digital innovation, and regional cooperation. The FAO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Kazakhstan, is launching a new partnership focused on sustainable water governance.

This panel will bring together leaders from government, finance, technology, and civil society to explore inclusive, climate-resilient solutions and support implementation of the UN's Pact for the Future and the SDGs.

ENERGY SECURITY IN 2025: BALANCING TRANSITION AND STABILITY

Venue: CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Bolat Akchulakov
Chairman of KAZENERGY
Association



SESSION PARTNER
KazEnergy

SPEAKERS



Yerlan Akkenzhenov
Minister of Energy of the
Republic of Kazakhstan



Askhat Khassenov
Chairman of the Management
Board, KazMunayGas



Peter Larden
Senior Vice President,
ExxonMobil Corporation



Matthew Sagers
Vice President for S&P
Global Commodity Insights



Dario Liguti
Director, Sustainable Energy
Division, UN Economic
Commission for Europe



Gurbuz Gonul
Director, Country Engagement
and Partnerships, International
Renewable Energy Agency

Global energy demand is projected to grow by 11%-18% by 2050. Developing countries will account for the bulk of this increase, due to population growth and a stronger middle class. The relocation of manufacturing plants from developed to developing economies will also make a significant contribution.

By 2050, regions represented mainly by emerging markets, such as ASEAN, Central Asia, the Middle East and Latin America, will account for 66% to 95% of energy demand growth. As a result, their position as key sources of energy demand will be strengthened. This will lead to a significant redistribution of global energy flows.

How effectively the world copes with the increase in energy demand is one of the key conditions for the global energy transition. Along with traditional ones, new fossil fuels as well as renewable energy sources will be required. In the longer term, nuclear power will also have an important role to play.

Under these conditions, urgent but balanced measures are needed. For example, the transition to green energy through renewable energy should be carried out in a balanced way, without compromising the sustainability of energy systems and energy security. Lengthy project implementation and higher interest rates should also be taken into account as challenges for any energy source. In addition, the real capacity is often less than the declared one. Therefore, the global community will inevitably face a number of complex challenges.

COP30 AND THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

Venue: BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Zulfiya Suleimenova

Advisor to the President
– Special Representative
of the President of the
Republic of Kazakhstan for
International Environmental
Cooperation

In 2025, marking the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, Kazakhstan will host the Ministerial Meeting “COP30 and the Future of Global Climate Action” within the Astana International Forum.

As Central Asian countries prepare their enhanced NDCs 3.0, the meeting will emphasize the need to align ambitious climate goals with robust investment planning to unlock climate finance, strengthen cross-sector collaboration, and accelerate the shift to low-carbon, resilient economies.



SESSION PARTNERS

UNDP



MINISTRY OF ECOLOGY,
GEOLOGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES OF THE RK

**Ministry of Ecology
and Natural Resources**

Gathering governments, international financial institutions, private investors, and development partners, the event will assess regional progress, identify financing gaps, and explore innovative solutions to enhance investment readiness.

It will also serve as a milestone on the road to the 2026 Regional Climate Summit, announced by President Tokayev and to be held under the auspices of the United Nations and other key partners.

SPEAKERS



Haoliang Xu

UNDP Associate Administrator



Daniyar Amangeldiev

First Deputy Chairman of the
Cabinet of Ministers, Kyrgyz
Republic



Babaniaz Yalakov

Deputy Minister of Finance
and Economy of Turkmenistan



Dauren Kenbeil

Vice Minister of Finance of
the Republic of Kazakhstan



Tatiana Proskuryakova

Regional Director for Central
Asia, World Bank

THE INNOVATION CHALLENGE: MAKING CLIMATE ACTION WORK FOR ALL

Venue: CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Joshua Lincoln
Senior Fellow,
The Fletcher School Tufts
University



SESSION PARTNER
ECOJER

SPEAKERS



Lord Francis Maude
Member of the House of Lords
of the Parliament,
United Kingdom



Mohamed Abdel Salam
Secretary General of the Muslim
Council of Elder



Francesco La Camera
Director-General of the
International Renewable
Energy Agency



Mukhtar Babayev
President of COP29 and
Minister of Ecology and Natural
Resources of Azerbaijan
Republic



Mansur Oshurbaev
Vice- Minister of Ecology
and Natural Resources of the
Republic of Kazakhstan



Kyriacos Kakouris
Vice- President of the European
Investment Bank

Ten years after the signing of the Paris Agreement, the global community still struggles to meet its climate goals. While some countries are making progress and strengthening sustainable initiatives, the overall reduction in greenhouse gas emissions remains insufficient. Mixed political signals and shifting global priorities complicate efforts, but climate action is increasingly driving economic transformation, promoting social justice, and supporting the development of green technologies, which enhance energy resilience and food security.

Kazakhstan stands out in Central Asia for its commitment to climate goals, with strong efforts to regulate emissions and foster a green economy. Supported by initiatives like the EU-funded SECCA project, the country is advancing renewable energy, modernizing its energy sector, and encouraging green businesses. This session will explore the progress and future of the Paris Agreement, emphasizing innovation, inclusivity, and the socio-economic benefits of climate action, as well as strategies for overcoming existing barriers.

THE RESOURCE RACE: WHO CONTROLS THE GREEN FUTURE

Venue: CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Eric Rudenshiold

Research Director and
Senior Fellow, Caspian
Policy Center

The transition to renewable energy and green technologies has triggered an unprecedented scramble for critical minerals and rare earth elements. This session delves into the geopolitical implications of this resource competition, examining how access to these raw materials is rapidly becoming strategically vital.

SPEAKERS



Sanja Božinovska

Minister of Energy, Mining and
Mineral Raw Materials of the
Republic of North Macedonia

The panel will analyse how resource nationalism, supply chain vulnerabilities, and recycling innovations are reshaping global power dynamics. The speakers will explore the emerging strategies of resource-rich nations, consumer economies' approaches to securing supply, and the environmental and social governance challenges that accompany extraction. The discussion will provide crucial perspectives on how this competition will influence international relations, trade agreements, and technological development over the coming decade, potentially determining which nations will lead in the green economy.



Serik Shakhazhanov

General Director
ERG



Saken Shayakhmetov

Deputy Chairman of the
Management Board for
Sustainable Development and
Communications, Kazakhmys
Corporation LLP

ENHANCING ENERGY CONNECTIVITY FOR A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE KAZAKHSTAN ENERGY SYSTEM

Venue: BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Dario Liguti

Director, Sustainable
Energy Division,
UN Economic Commission
for Europe



SESSION PARTNERS

ESCAP



UNECE

SPEAKERS



Alibek Zhamauov

Vice Minister of Energy
of Kazakhstan



Mehmet Arif Ozozan

CEO of the UCC Concessions
and Investments



Jason Veysey

Energy Modeling Program
Director, Stockholm
Environment Institute



Anna Lobanova

Energy Connectivity Expert
at ESCAP/UNECE

Regional energy connectivity and cooperation play a crucial role in strengthening energy security, improving system resilience, and advancing sustainable energy transitions in Central Asia. By fostering cross-border energy trade and enhancing infrastructure integration, the region can optimize energy resources, support decarbonization efforts, and accommodate large-scale renewable energy capacity more efficiently.

Central Asia is rich with abundant natural resources and has significant potential for renewable energy development. However, despite progress in expanding renewable energy capacity, the region remains heavily reliant on fossil fuels, with coal and natural gas continuing to dominate the electricity generation mix. Meeting growing energy demand while transitioning towards a cleaner and more resilient energy system requires strategic investments in infrastructure, policy coordination, and enhanced regional cooperation.

Kazakhstan, as the region's largest energy producer, plays a pivotal role in this transition. The country has set ambitious targets to increase the share of renewables in its energy mix and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. With vast wind and solar potential, Kazakhstan is investing in grid modernization and interconnection projects to improve energy efficiency and enable greater cross-border electricity trade. Enhanced regional integration through regional initiatives and emerging transmission corridors offers opportunities to balance supply and demand across borders to optimize resource utilization and unlock energy transition.



ECONOMY AND FINANCE

ALATAU CITY: THE FUTURE IS NOW

Venue: BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Zhandos Shaimardanov
Vice Minister of National
Economy of the Republic
of Kazakhstan

The new Alatau city in the Almaty region is a dynamically developing center of innovation, where Proptech, LAE, and UAM technologies are shaping the urban environment of tomorrow.

During the panel session, world-renowned experts and representatives of leading international companies will discuss how the standards being established today in Kazakhstan will determine the trajectory of global urbanism for decades to come.

Key topics of the open discussion will include issues related to obtaining a unique legal status and international guarantees necessary for attracting global investments.



SESSION PARTNER
Alatau City

SPEAKERS



Zhaslan Madiyev
Minister of Digital Development,
Innovations and Aerospace
Industry of the Republic of
Kazakhstan



Wong Heang Fine
Chairman of Asia Infrastructure
Solutions Singapore and Asia
Advisory Board Director for
Global Infrastructure Solutions Ink



Moon Park
Partner Digital Transformation
CoE / Operations Consulting
& Tax (KPMG in South Korea)



Stephan Baral
Head of Corporate
Development at Joby Aviation

THE NEXT SILK ROADS: MAPPING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL TRADE

Venue: ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Hanako Montgomery
CNN International
Correspondent

SPEAKERS



Marat Karabayev
Minister of Transport of the
Republic of Kazakhstan



Kyriacos Kakourisk
Vice- President of the European
Investment Bank



Andreas Mattha
Chief Executive Officer
Österreichische Bundesbahnen-
Holding AG



Konstantin Limitovskiy
Chief Investment Officer, Public
Sector & Project and Corporate
Finance Clients, AIIB



Rogerio Mendonca
President of Freight Equipment
at Webtec Corporation



Yelzhas Otyynshiyev
Managing Director for Strategy
and Asset Management of
Samruk-Kazyna JSC

As geopolitical tensions and environmental pressures disrupt traditional trade corridors, new pathways like the Middle Corridor are gaining strategic importance.

This session examines how emerging trade networks are redrawing the map of global commerce, creating both opportunities and vulnerabilities for nations positioned along these new arteries of exchange.

The panel will explore how these evolving trade networks reflect broader shifts in global power dynamics, with particular focus on infrastructure development initiatives, investment patterns, and emerging logistics hubs. The speakers will assess the wide-ranging impacts of these new corridors, examining challenges alongside potential.

The discussion will offer valuable insights into how businesses and governments should position themselves to benefit from—or mitigate risks associated with—these transformative changes to global trade architecture.

BUILDING ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: AN OECD'S PERSPECTIVE

Venue: TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Daniel Witt

President of the
International Tax and
Investment



SESSION PARTNER
OECD

The OECD panel at the Astana International Forum 2025 will be dedicated to the theme “Building Economic Resilience”, a topic of growing importance in light of global uncertainties and regional challenges. The session will bring together speakers representing diverse sectors and areas of expertise to explore various dimensions of economic resilience in Kazakhstan and the broader Central Asian region.

SPEAKERS



Zhandos Shaimardanov

Vice Minister of National
Economy of the Republic
of Kazakhstan



Elsa Pilichowski

Director, OECD Public
Governance Directorate



William Thompson

Head of the OECD Eurasia
Division



Gregory Lecomte

Head of the Central Asia Unit



Johannes Baur

Head of Co-operation in the
European Union Delegation to
Kazakhstan

Through a forward-looking and evidence-based discussion, the panel will address key issues such as policy frameworks for sustainable growth, structural reforms, economic diversification, and strategies to enhance regional and global integration. By highlighting both achievements and opportunities, the session aims to foster dialogue on strengthening institutional and economic systems that can better withstand future shocks and support long-term development.

SECURING THE FUTURE: ADVANCING ECONOMIC STABILITY IN A SHIFTING WORLD

Venue: TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Andrei Mikhnev
Country Manager
for Kazakhstan and
Turkmenistan,
World Bank Group



SESSION PARTNERS
Doha Forum



**Qatar Fund
for Development**

The global economy is undergoing a period of intense volatility due to interlinked crises, including geopolitical instability, climate change, post-pandemic recovery, and structural inequality. These disruptions have led to widespread financial uncertainty, with supply chain breakdowns, energy and food insecurity, and price fluctuations placing pressure on economies. While developed nations can absorb these shocks, developing countries and LDCs face heightened vulnerability due to limited diversification, high debt levels, and restricted access to long-term financing.

SPEAKERS



Maha Al-Kuwari
General Manager
Doha Forum



Timur Suleimenov
Governor of the National Bank
of Kazakhstan



Antonella Bassani
Vice President for Europe and
Central Asia, World Bank Group



Marie-Helene Berard
Member of the Holdings Board
of Directors - Independent
Director



Fahad Hamad Hassan Al-Sulaiti
Director General, Qatar Fund for
Development

Despite these challenges, these economies offer untapped potential for global growth. Strategic investments in blended finance, climate resilience, human capital, and infrastructure can drive inclusive, sustainable progress. Multilateral institutions, development banks, and private sector partnerships are crucial to unlocking capital and designing adaptive economic policies. Strengthening economic resilience in these regions is not only a matter of equity—it is vital for building a more stable and prosperous global future.

DIGITAL ASSET REVOLUTION: ASTANA ON THE GLOBAL MAP OF DIGITAL FINANCE

Venue: ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Evgenia Bogdanova
CEO of AFSA



SESSION PARTNER
AIFC

SPEAKERS



Zhaslan Madiyev
Minister of Digital Development,
Innovations and Aerospace
Industry of the Republic of
Kazakhstan



Lily Liu
President of the Solana
Foundation



Binur Zhalenov
Chief Digital Officer and Advisor
to the Governor at the National
Bank of Kazakhstan



Nurkhat Kushimov
General Manager for Binance
Kazakhstan



Sanzhar Suleimanov
Vice President, Regional Director
for Central Asia for VISA

The financial landscape is undergoing a fundamental transformation driven by digital assets. From Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) to decentralized cryptocurrencies, these innovations are redefining how money is created, transferred, and regulated. The rapid adoption of digital assets presents both opportunities and challenges for governments, financial institutions, and the global economy.

This panel session will explore the evolution of digital currencies and their implications for monetary policy, financial inclusion, and geopolitical power structures. As central banks experiment with CBDCs and decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms gain traction, the future of money remains a critical subject of debate.

THE NEXT DECADE OF AI: REDEFINING GLOBAL ECONOMIC POWER

Venue: ASTANA Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Jeremy White

Senior Innovation
Editor, WIRED

The race for artificial intelligence supremacy represents a defining contest of the 21st century, with profound implications for economic competitiveness, national security, and social systems. This session examines how different political and economic models approach AI development and deployment, exploring the tensions between innovation, regulation, and ethical considerations across diverse governance systems.

SPEAKERS



Zhaslan Madiyev

Minister of Digital Development,
Innovations and Aerospace
Industry of the Republic of
Kazakhstan

The panel will analyse how AI capabilities are reshaping productivity paradigms, labour markets, and competitive advantages between nations. Experts will discuss the implications of divergent regulatory approaches, data governance frameworks, and public-private partnerships in determining AI leadership. The conversation will address crucial questions around how technological breakthroughs might shift global power balances, whether ethical AI development is compatible with competitive pressures, and how smaller nations can navigate a landscape increasingly dominated by AI superpowers and tech giants.



Patrick Warnking

Vice President for Central and
Eastern Europe, Google



Olaf Groth

Professional Faculty, Haas
School of Business, UC Berkeley

UNLOCKING ECONOMIC POTENTIAL: ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Venue: TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Dan Baxter

Vice President, corporate communications, Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East and Africa, Visa

Women's entrepreneurship is a strategic resource for sustainable economic growth of the country. In Kazakhstan, women make up a significant portion of small and medium-sized businesses.

According to statistics, the number of entrepreneurial entities led by women is approximately 985,000 accounting for 49% of the total enterprises in this segment (total number: 2,022,199).



SESSION PARTNER
ASMAR

SPEAKERS



Kunsulu Zakarya

Advisor to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Amid global economic challenges and digital transformation, women-led businesses require new support strategies. Supporting women in business, especially in rural areas, enhancing digital skills, and improving access to financing will help unlock their potential and create a strong foundation for the country's future economic development.



Aleška Simki

Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan

The panel session will bring together leading international and national experts, entrepreneurs, and government representatives to discuss ways to unlock women's economic potential through entrepreneurship.



Kristina Dorosh

Vice President, Visa Kazakhstan Regional Manager



Mehlika Gider

Vice President of the Women Employers and Industrialists Association of Türkiye



Andrey Lazarev

Managing Director for Administrative Affairs of Kazzinc LLP

KAZAKHSTAN'S PRIVATE EQUITY FRONTIER: CAPITALIZING ON HIGHGROWTH MARKET DYNAMICS

Venue: CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR

Marcia Favale

Independent Director
and Member of the Board
of Directors of
Qazaqstan Investment
Corporation JSC

Kazakhstan is entering a new investment phase, with private equity emerging as a key driver of growth beyond the resource sector. From agriculture to digital innovation, new high value-added opportunities are opening up across the economy.

QIC serves as an anchor investor, bridging global institutional capital with local projects to create long-term, sustainable value. Together with international partners, we are paving the way for a new economy – technology-driven, resilient, and focused on real impact.



BAITEREK

SESSION PARTNER

BAITEREK

SPEAKERS



Didar Karimsakov

CEO, Qazaqstan Investment
Corporation JSC



Richard Dallas

Head of Investments,
Gulf Capital



Cliff Chau

Managing Partner,
EWPartners



Asset Yerali

Chairman of the Management,
Board of Pioneer Capital Invest

POTENTIAL AND PERSPECTIVES FOR CARBON MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL ASIA

Venue: BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Bakhyt Yessekina
Director of Scientific
Research and Education
Center “Green Academy”



SESSION PARTNER
Green Academy

SPEAKERS



Yerlan Nysanbayev
Minister of Ecology and Natural
Resources of the Republic
of Kazakhstan



William Thompson
Head of the OECD Eurasia Division



Christopher J. Gerry
Rector of University of Central
Asia



Georgy Safonov
Lead Expert in the SIPA OECD/
IDDRI Project in Central Asia



Sakir Devrim Yilmaz
Senior Researcher at AFD



Dosym Kydyrbayev
Managing Partner,
Rakurs Consulting Group



Kuanysh Beisengazin
Head of the National Bureau
of Economic Research

This dynamic panel session will explore the emerging opportunities and critical challenges associated with the development of carbon markets in Central Asia. As the global community intensifies efforts to combat climate change, carbon pricing mechanisms and emissions trading systems (ETS) are gaining increasing relevance. For Central Asian countries—many of which are heavily dependent on carbon-intensive industries and natural resource extraction—carbon markets present both a strategic climate tool and an avenue for sustainable economic diversification.

The panel will bring together policymakers, environmental economists, climate finance experts, and regional stakeholders to assess the current landscape of carbon market readiness in the countries of Central Asia.

Central Asia stands at a crossroads. On one hand, the region is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change—facing glacial melt, water scarcity, and desertification. On the other, it holds vast renewable energy potential and a growing awareness of the need to transition to low-carbon economies. Carbon markets can provide a key incentive structure for this transition, unlocking investment in clean technologies, energy efficiency, and nature-based solutions. Moreover, with global demand for credible carbon offsets growing, Central Asia has an opportunity to position itself as a significant player—provided that robust frameworks are established.

EURASIA: UNLOCKING GROWTH, EMBRACING GLOBAL TRENDS

Venue: BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Nikolai Podguzov
Chairman of the
Management Board of
the Eurasian Development
Bank



SESSION PARTNER
**Eurasian Development
Bank**

This dynamic session will explore the economic future of Eurasia, where energy innovation, sustainable water management, and transformative transport infrastructure converge.

High-level dialogue brings together top-tier business leaders, government officials and global experts to uncover actionable strategies for regional growth and global integration.

SPEAKERS



Serik Zhumangarin
Deputy Prime Minister -
Minister of National Economy
of Kazakhstan



Alexei Overchuk
Deputy Prime Minister
of the Russian Federation



Gevorg Papoyan
Minister of Economy
of the Republic of Armenia



Mustafa Adil
Head of Islamic Finance,
London Stock Exchange



Rae Kwon Chun
Nobel prize laureate, Board
Director of Ban Ki- Moon
Foundation for a Better Future

Topics that will be discussed include mega-projects that are poised to reshape Eurasia's economic landscape.

Don't miss this opportunity to gain insights into the region's transformative potential and its role in tomorrow's interconnected economy.

Let's shape a resilient, prosperous future - together.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN THE ERA OF AI AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Venue: ALTAY Hall, Congress Centre



MODERATOR
Kairat Torebayev
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the WTO and international economic organizations



SESSION PARTNERS
Ministry of Justice



World Intellectual Property Organization

Intellectual property is an increasingly important factor in the sustainable development of the global economy, as well as in advances in science and technology. In the context of digital transformation, globalization, and growing innovation activity, businesses face new challenges in managing and protecting intellectual property. At the same time, this area is gaining strategic importance for both national governments and international organizations.

Participants will discuss global trends in intellectual property, prospects for international cooperation, and strategies for the effective management and protection of intellectual property rights in the age of technological progress.

SPEAKERS



Yerlan Sarsembayev
Minister of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Daren Tang
General Director of WIPO



Datuk Nur Zhazlan bin Tan Sri Mohamed
Deputy President of the Senate Parliament of Malaysia



Grigory Ivliev
President of the Eurasian Patent Office of the Eurasian Patent Organisation



Bakhyt Sultanov
Member of the Board, Minister in charge of Economy and Financial Policy of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC)



Besar Durmishi
Minister of Economy and Labor of the Republic of North Macedonia



Yuri Zubov
Head of Rospatent



Jian Xu
First-level Inspector of the Patent Examination Administration



Mohamed Khalil
President and Professor of MoroccoAI



Sarim Aziz
Director of Public Policy for Meta



SPECIAL 1-ON-1 SESSIONS

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ANTE ŠUŠNJAR, MINISTER OF ECONOMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



SPEAKER

Ante Šušnjar

Minister of Economy
of the Republic of Croatia



MODERATOR

Max Foster

CNN Anchor

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH SEBASTIAN KURZ, FORMER CHANCELLOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



SPEAKER

Sebastian Kurz

Former Chancellor of Austria



MODERATOR

Tony Barber

Former Financial Times Columnist

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ALAIN BERSET, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



SPEAKER

Alain Berset

Secretary General of the Council of Europe



MODERATOR

Tony Barber

Former Financial Times Columnist

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ALASTAIR CAMPBELL, JOURNALIST, POLITICAL STRATEGIST



SPEAKER

Alastair Campbell

Journalist and Political Strategist



MODERATOR

Charlotte Kan

Former Bloomberg Journalist

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ROBERT FRIEDLAND, FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE CO-CHAIRMAN OF IVANHOE MINES



SPEAKER

Robert Friedland

Founder and Co-Chair of Ivanhoe Minerals



MODERATOR

Ryan Chilcote

Former CNN & Bloomberg Journalist

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH AMY E. POPE, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)



SPEAKER

Amy E. Pope

Director-General of IOM



MODERATOR

Max Foster

CNN Anchor

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ROBERT THOMSON, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GLOBAL HEAD OF GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT AT VISA



SPEAKER

Robert Thomson

Senior Vice President and Global Head of
Governance at Visa



MODERATOR

Charlotte Kan

Former Bloomberg Journalist

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH WILLIAM SHUM, CHAIRMAN, HONG KONG CPPCC YOUTH ASSOCIATION, FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MEMORIGIN WATCH COMPANY



SPEAKER

William Shum

Chairman, Hong Kong Cppcc Youth
Association, Founder And Chief
Executive Officer, Memorigin Watch
Company



MODERATOR

Charlotte Kan

Former Bloomberg Journalist

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH HAJI NOORUDDIN AZIZI, MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF AFGHANISTAN



SPEAKER

Haji Nooruddin Azizi

Minister of Commerce and Industry
of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan



MODERATOR

Charles McLean

Founder and Managing Director,
Borderless Consulting Group

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH FEDERICA MOGHERINI, RECTOR OF THE COLLEGE OF EUROPE AND DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DIPLOMATIC ACADEMY



SPEAKER

Federica Mogherini

Rector of the College of Europe
and Director of the European Union
Diplomatic Academy



MODERATOR

Tony Barber

Former Financial Times Columnist

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH AMANDEEP SINGH GILL, UN UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR DIGITAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



SPEAKER

Amandeep Singh Gill

UN Under-Secretary-General and Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies



MODERATOR

Jeremy White

Senior Innovation Editor,
WIRED

1-ON-1 SESSION WITH ASKARBEEK ALSHANBAYEV DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOR STRATEGY AND PRODUCTS OF JSC "TRASNTELECOM"



SPEAKER

Askarbek Alshanbayev

Deputy Chairman for Strategy and Products of JSC "Trasntelecom"



MODERATOR

Daniel Witt

Resident of the International Tax and Investment Center

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