



Astana
**Think Tank
Forum**

MIDDLE POWERS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

16-17 OCTOBER 2024
KAZAKHSTAN

Co-hosted by



Қазақстан Республикасының
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FOREWORD

The global landscape is undergoing a profound transformation as we witness the emergence of a more multipolar world order. This shift has created new opportunities for middle powers, such as Kazakhstan, to play an increasingly significant role in global governance and diplomacy. As traditional superpowers grapple with their limitations in addressing complex international crises, middle-power nations are stepping up to fill crucial gaps in conflict resolution and crisis management.

The shift towards multipolarity presents both challenges and opportunities for the international community. As this new order takes shape, the importance of middle powers in fostering stability, promoting dialogue, and bridging divides between major powers will only continue to grow. Their ability to navigate this changing landscape will be crucial in determining the course of global affairs in years to come.

Yerkin Tukumov

Director of the Kazakhstan Institute
for Strategic Studies



OUR IMPACT

The Forum plays an essential role in bringing leaders and experts together to identify practical solutions to some of the world's most pressing topics.

In the current geopolitical context, it is necessary to establish effective and longstanding partnerships. The Forum is well placed to become a hub for open and constructive dialogue that will shape international public debates.

Acting as a global town hall, the Forum gives thinkers from around the world a platform to share their ideas for change.

FORUM FEATURES



PANEL DISCUSSIONS



INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS
AND ROUNDTABLES



ONE-ON-ONE SESSIONS



KEYNOTE SPEECHES

SESSIONS



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SCHEDULE

DAY 1		
Session	Time & Location	Title
Registration and Badge Retrieval: 7:00-9:00		
Session 1	10:00 - 11:20 Grand Ballroom Hall	The Fundamentals of Middle Power Diplomacy
Coffee Break - Networking: 11:20-11:40		
Session 2	11:40 - 12:40 Hall 3	Understanding a New Era from Atlantic to Pacific
Lunch: 13:00-14:00 (by invitation)		
Session 3	14:30 - 15:30 Hall 3	Guiding International Peace: A Call for Mediators
Coffee Break - Networking: 15:30 - 15:50		
Session 4	15:50 - 16:50 Hall 3	Fuelling Stability: Energy Equilibrium
Session 5	15:50 - 16:50 Hall 5	Navigating Global Influence: Strategic Responses
Evening activity: Reception in Astana Hall (by invitation)		

SCHEDULE

DAY 2		
Session	Time & Location	Title
Plenary Session	10:30 - 11:15 Grand Ballroom Hall	Address by the President of Kazakhstan
Coffee Break: 11:15 - 11:40		
Session 6	11:40 - 13:00 Grand Ballroom Hall	2nd Central Asian Forum on Security and Cooperation
Networking Lunch: 13:00 - 14:00 (by invitation)		
Session 7	14:30 - 15:30 Hall 3	Security Challenges in a Multipolar World
Session 8	15:50 - 16:50 Hall 3	The Role of Think Tanks in Shaping Policies
Session 9	15:50 - 16:50 Hall 5	Building Bridges: Key Trade and Transport Corridors

DAY 1

SESSION 1: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF MIDDLE POWER DIPLOMACY

10:00 - 11:20

MODERATOR

Charles McLean

Founder and Managing Director,
The Borderless Consulting Group



This session will delve into the essential principles and strategies that shape middle power diplomacy in the current complex geopolitical landscape. Participants will explore how Kazakhstan and other middle powers manage their relationships with major powers, pursue their national interests, and contribute to regional stability. The session will focus on practical approaches to balancing influence and fostering cooperation in an increasingly multipolar world.



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



Michel Duclos, Special Adviser Geopolitics, Institute Montaigne, France



Dino Patti Djalal, Founder and Chairman of the Foreign Policy Community Indonesia (FPCI), Indonesia



Joshua Lincoln, Senior Fellow at the Fletcher School's Centre for International Law & Governance, Tufts University, USA

DAY 1

SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING A NEW ERA FROM ATLANTIC TO PACIFIC

11:40 - 12:40

MODERATOR

Charlotte Kan

Former Bloomberg journalist



In an era defined by shifting power dynamics and emerging global challenges, understanding the evolving relationships from the Atlantic to the Pacific is essential. This session will delve into the intricate connections between these regions, focusing on the geopolitical, economic, and strategic implications of a rapidly changing landscape. Participants will explore how nations across these vast areas can collaborate to navigate this new era, emphasizing the importance of cohesive strategies that foster resilience, innovation, and stability on a global scale.



Li Yongquan, Director, Institute for the Social Development of Europe and Asia of the Research Centre, State Council of the People's Republic of China



Ambassador Sujan R. Chinoy, Director General, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), India



Dr. Zoltán Fehér, Visiting Scholar, George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs, Nonresident Fellow, Atlantic Council, Global China Hub



Ambassador Askar Tazhiyev, Former Deputy Chairman of KazAID, Ambassador at Large (Green Economy, UN)

DAY 1

SESSION 3: GUIDING INTERNATIONAL PEACE: A CALL FOR MEDIATORS

14:30 - 15:30

MODERATOR

Manas Chawla
Founder, London Politica, UK



This panel will explore the unique position of mediator countries in global conflicts and tensions. Experts will discuss how these nations can leverage their diplomatic influence, perceived neutrality, and international networks to facilitate dialogue, build bridges between conflicting parties, and contribute to peaceful resolutions in various global hotspots.



Dr. Vasu Gouden, Founder & Executive Director, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), South Africa



Dr. Pascal Lorot, Co-founder & President, Choiseul Institute, France



Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase, Georgia



Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Director General, Institute of Strategic Studies, Pakistan

DAY 1

SESSION 4: FUELING STABILITY: ENERGY EQUILIBRIUM

15:50 - 16:50

MODERATOR

Matthew J. Sagers

Vice President, S&P Global
Commodity Insights



This panel brings together energy experts to explore the crucial role of states in shaping global energy dynamics. The discussion will focus on how these nations balance their energy resources, economic development, and geopolitical influence to contribute to global energy security and stability.



Magzum Mirzagaliyev, Chairman,
KAZENERGY Association



Efgan Nifti, CEO, Caspian Policy Center
(CPC)



Telman Shuriyev, Director of the
Department for External Relations and
ESG, Kazakhmys Corporation



Ariel Cohen, Managing Director -
Energy, Growth, and Security Program
at the International Tax and Investment
Center, USA

DAY 1

SESSION 5: NAVIGATING GLOBAL INFLUENCE: STRATEGIC RESPONSES

15:50 - 16:50

MODERATOR

Joshua Lincoln

Senior Fellow at the Fletcher School's Centre for International Law & Governance, Tufts University



Experts will discuss the evolving dynamics of power in international relations, the strategies nations use to expand their influence, and the potential for middle powers to create a more balanced and cooperative global systems.



Ashok Sajjanhar, Executive Council Member, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, President, Institute of Global Studies, India



Dorothee Schmid, Senior Research Fellow - Head of Turkiye and Middle East Program, French Institute of International Relations, France



Dr. Kamran Bokhari, Senior Director, Eurasian Security and Prosperity at the New Lines Institute, USA



Darren Spinck, Associate Fellow, Henry Jackson Society, UK



Zhang Ning, Deputy Director at the BRI Center, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China

DAY 2

PLENARY SESSION: ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN

10:30 - 11:15

MODERATOR

Lars-Hendrik Röller
Founder and Chair,
Berlin Global Dialogue



DAY 2

SESSION 6: 2nd CENTRAL ASIAN FORUM ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION

11:40 - 13:00

MODERATOR

Yerkin Tukumov

Director, Kazakhstan Institute
for Strategic Studies under the
President of the Republic of
Kazakhstan (KazISS)



Experts from Central Asian think tanks explore their nations' respective role and cooperation in the region, focusing on their policies. The discussion will center on how these countries leverage their unique positions to shape regional dynamics and meaningfully contribute to global governance.



Maulen Ashinbayev, Chairperson,
Senate of the Parliament of the
Republic of Kazakhstan



Eldor Aripov, Director, Institute for
Strategic and Regional Studies under
the President of the Republic of
Uzbekistan (ISRS)



Sharifzoda Saidhomid, Head of the
Department for the Study of Regional
Security Issues of the Center for
Strategic Studies under the President
of the Republic of Tajikistan



Dr. Eric Rudenshiold, Senior Fellow for
Caspian Affairs, Caspian Policy Center
(CPC), USA

DAY 2

SESSION 7: SECURITY CHALLENGES IN A MULTIPOLAR WORLD

14:30 - 15:30

MODERATOR

Prof. Dr. Muhittin Ataman
Editor in Chief, Insight
Turkey



This session will explore the global security challenges within an increasingly multipolar international system. Speakers will examine how nations can act as stabilizing forces, fostering dialogue, promoting multilateralism, and contributing to conflict resolution in various regional and global contexts.



Bruno Tertrais, Deputy Director, Foundation for Strategic Research, France



Ambassador Rainer Rudolph, Vice Chairman of the Munich Security Conference, Germany



Minhyeon Jeong, Head of Russia and Eurasia, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), Korea



Mendee Jargalsaikhan, Director, Institute for Strategic Studies of the National Security Council of Mongolia, Mongolia

DAY 2

SESSION 8: THE ROLE OF THINK TANKS IN SHAPING POLICIES

15:50 - 16:50

MODERATOR

Fedor Voytolovsky

Director of the Institute of
World Economy and International
Relations (IMEMO)



This session will explore the crucial influence of think tanks in formulating and guiding national and international policies. Experts from leading think tanks will discuss how independent research and analysis contribute to the decision-making process, foster innovation, and promote evidence-based policymaking. The discussion will also highlight the role of think tanks in addressing global challenges and providing strategic recommendations that shape governance and economic development.



Gela Vasadze, Advisory Board Member,
Georgian Strategic Analysis Center,
Georgia



Alexander Lukin, Scientific Director of
the Institute of China and Modern Asia
of the Russian Academy of Sciences,
Russia



Javid Valiyev, Head of Department,
Center of Analysis of International
Relations, Azerbaijan



Pavel Liohki, Deputy Director,
Belarusian Institute for Strategic
Studies, Belarus

DAY 2

SESSION 9: BUILDING BRIDGES: KEY TRADE AND TRANSPORT CORRIDORS

15:50 - 16:50

MODERATOR

Grégory Lecomte

Head of the OECD Central Asia Unit, Global Relations and Co-operation Directorate



In this conversation, experts from Middle Corridor key countries will discuss the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route. The session will also explore the corridor's significance for Kazakhstan's economic development, its role in enhancing regional connectivity, and its broader implications for Eurasian trade and geopolitics.



Zhavlon Vakhobov, Director of the International Institute of Central Asia (IICA), Uzbekistan



David Aptsiauri, General Director, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Georgia



Amrin Murat, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Member of the Board of the NCE RK "Atameken"



Timur Mukhamedov, Commercial Director, LLP Transcom



Johnny Melikyan, Director, Center of International Cooperation, Public Relations and Information Center Office of the Prime Minister of Armenia

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