



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 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





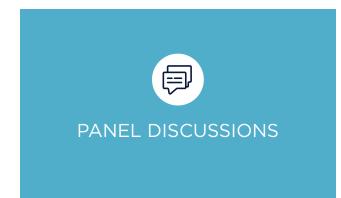
OUR IMPACT

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











SESSIONS



Astana Think Tank Forum

MIDDLE POWERS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

16-17 OCTOBER 2024 KAZAKHSTAN





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	



SESSION 1: THE FUNDAMENTALS OF MIDDLE POWER DIPLOMACY

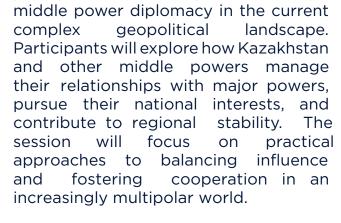
10:00 - 11:20

MODERATOR

Charles McLean

Founder and Managing Director, The Borderless Consulting Group





This session will delve into the essential principles and strategies that shape



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



SESSION 2: UNDERSTANDING A NEW ERA FROM ATLANTIC TO PACIFIC

11:40 - 12:40

MODERATOR

Charlotte KanFormer 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)



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



Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase, Georgia



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

development,



DAY 1

SESSION 4: FUELING STABILITY: ENERGY EQUILIBRIUM

15:50 - 16:50

MODERATOR

Matthew J. SagersVice President, S&P Global
Commodity Insights







resources,



Efgan Nifti, CEO, Caspian Policy Center (CPC)

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

and geopolitical influence to contribute

to global energy security and stability.

economic



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



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



Dorothée 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



PLENARY SESSION: ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN

10:30 - 11:15

MODERATOR

Lars-Hendrik RöllerFounder and Chair,
Berlin Global Dialogue





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



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



SESSION 8: THE ROLE OF THINK TANKS IN SHAPING POLICIES

15:50 - 16:50

MODERATOR

Fedor VoytolovskyDirector 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



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



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.

In this conversation, experts from Middle





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



WITH THANKS TO OUR 2024 PARTNERS

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CO-HOSTED BY





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