



# ASTANA INTERNATIONAL FORUM

Astana, Kazakhstan  
**June 8-9, 2023**

An aerial night view of the Akhmet Yel'dev Sports and Entertainment Center in Astana, Kazakhstan. The building has a large, illuminated, undulating roof with a grid-like pattern. It is surrounded by a cityscape with lights and greenery. In the foreground, a large crowd of people is gathered on a wide, illuminated plaza. The sky is dark blue with stars.

[astanainternationalforum.org](http://astanainternationalforum.org)

# OUR MISSION

**Tackling Challenges Through Dialogue:** Towards Cooperation, Development, and Progress.

**The Astana International Forum (AIF) is committed to facilitating dialogue and identifying clear and actionable solutions to humanity's shared challenges.**

The Forum's overarching mission is to foster international cooperation, peace through dialogue, and understanding on critical global issues, from climate change to security and development.

By creating a platform that brings together leaders, policymakers, scholars, and experts from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, the AIF is committed to promoting innovative and practical solutions while advancing the principles of peace, sustainability, and development.

# OUR IMPACT

**As an international platform, 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 long-standing partnerships. The Forum is well-placed to become a hub for open and constructive dialogue that will shape international public debates.

The Forum is a platform for multi-actor initiatives that have a direct impact on global governance, geopolitical narratives, and opinions. Acting as a global town hall, the Forum brings people together by giving them a voice that can empower their ideas for change.



**The Astana International Forum will bring global shapers together in finding solutions to some of today's most difficult challenges by engaging in open dialogue, cooperation and multilateralism**

### Distinguished Guests,

**It is with great pleasure that Kazakhstan welcomes you to the inaugural Astana International Forum**, a global platform for dialogue that will address some of the most pressing issues our societies and economies face today.

**As we navigate a new era of historic challenges that threaten international peace and cooperation**, challenges that put unprecedented pressure on our global community, we must act with urgency to address these divisions for the benefit of our societies and our peoples.

We have launched the Astana International Forum as a response to these evolving challenges, a platform envisioned to prioritize peace, cooperation, and multilateralism as the core principles of a functioning and well-ordered international system, embedded under the frames of the international law. Our vision is to foster a global culture of collaboration and mutual understanding for all, where diverse perspectives and expertise are welcomed and valued, and where new ideas and approaches have the power to change existing narratives for the better through trustworthy and open discussions.

We believe that the Astana International Forum will become a catalyst for positive change, an environment that will embrace differing opinions, new thought-provoking solutions and approaches to the existing challenges we face together.

Our goal is to enhance and give a new voice to global conversations currently captured in the era of great power competition. We want to bridge existing differences, help regions integrate and initiate a new era of cooperation and development that will help the world return to sustainable and inclusive growth.

**During the Forum, I invite you to take part in global conversations that will shape solutions to most of the difficult challenges we face today. Only through dialogue and collaboration can we create a better and more just world for generations to come.**

**Thank you for joining us in this important effort.**

**Kassym-Jomart Tokayev**

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan



# THE FORUM IN NUMBERS

**2** CONFERENCE  
DAYS

**40+** PANELS, SIDE EVENTS  
AND SPECIAL SESSIONS

**4** MAJOR  
THEMES

**100+** SPEAKERS  
AND MODERATORS

**10+** HALLS

**10+** MINISTERS

**100+** AMBASSADORS  
AND DIPLOMATS

**1000+** INTERNATIONAL  
GUESTS

**20+** PARTNERS  
AND SPONSORS

**10+** NETWORKING AND  
SOCIAL EVENTS

**70+** COUNTRIES



# DAY 1 SCHEDULE

JUNE 8th 2023

## AGENDA

8:30 - 10:00	SECURITY CHECKING / REGISTRATION
10:30 - 10:50	PARTICIPANTS TO BE SEATED
11:00 - 13:00	AIF OPENING CEREMONY <b>(by invitation)</b> <b>PLENARY SESSION WITH HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS (by invitation)</b>
13:00 - 14:00	NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK <b>Congress Centre</b>
13:30 - 14:30	REGISTRATION
14:30 - 15:45	<b>RETHINKING PEACE, CONFLICT, AND GLOBAL ORDER</b> <b>ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor</b> <b>Moderator</b> - Ali Aslan, Former CNN, ABC News and Deutsche Welle TV
14:30 - 15:45	<b>RENEWABLES AND CARBON MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF CARBON NEUTRALITY</b> <b>CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor</b> <b>Moderator</b> - Charlotte Kan, Former Bloomberg <b>Session Partner</b> - AIFC
15:00-15:45	<b>SPECIAL SESSION: DIALOGUE WITH MULATU TESHOME, FORMER PRESIDENT OF ETHIOPIA</b> <b>BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor</b> <b>Moderator</b> - Charles McLean, Former NBC's Africa Bureau Chief
14:30 - 15:45	<b>OPPORTUNITIES OR CHALLENGES: THE UN'S ROLE IN ENSURING PEACE AND SECURITY</b> <b>TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor</b> <b>Moderator</b> - Stephen Cole, Former BBC
14:30 - 15:45	<b>THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT ONE: ASSESSING PROGRESS ON GLOBAL HEALTH PREPAREDNESS</b> <b>ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor</b> <b>Moderator</b> - Afaf Saoudi, Executive Producer for Europe Region at Aljazeera Network

# DAY 1 SCHEDULE

JUNE 8th 2023

## AGENDA

14:30 - 15:45

**MAPPING CENTRAL ASIAN CONNECTIVITY**  
**BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor**  
**Moderator** - Renault Girard, Le Figaro  
**Session Partner** - KazISS

13:15 - 14:30

**SIDE EVENT: ENERGY SECURITY AND THE ROLE OF GAS IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION**  
**London Hall, Astana International Financial Centre**  
**55/18 Mangilik El ave., block C3.3**  
**Moderator** - Dulatbek Ikbaev, Director of McKinsey and Company Kazakhstan LLP

14:00-15:30

**SIDE EVENT: CENTRAL ASIA IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM: THE CASE FOR WTO ACCESSION**  
**Hall 1, EXPO International Exhibition Center**  
**55/13 Mangilik El ave.**  
**Moderator** - Zhanar Aitzhan, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the WTO and International Economic Organizations

15:45 - 17:15

**SIDE EVENT: FROM E-COMMERCE TO PAPERLESS BORDERS: HOW DIGITALIZATION IS REVOLUTIONIZING TRADE**  
**Hall 1, EXPO International Exhibition Center**  
**55/13 Mangilik El ave.**  
**Moderator** - Pierre Bonthonneau, ITC Senior TF Adviser

15:45 - 16:00

**NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK** Congress Centre

16:00 - 17:15

**CHARTING THE PATH BACK TO GROWTH: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE-BUILDING MEASURES**  
**ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**  
**Moderator** - Charles McLean, Former NBC's Africa Bureau Chief

16:00 - 17:15

**GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION**  
**CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**  
**Moderator** - Ariel Cohen, Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center  
**Session Partner** - IFC

# DAY 1 SCHEDULE

JUNE 8th 2023

## AGENDA

16:00 - 17:15

**WHEN CHAINS BREAK: THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL  
SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION ON FOOD SECURITY**

**BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Tony Barber, Financial Times

**Session Partner** - Economic Research Institute

16:00 - 17:15

**COMING TOGETHER OR MOVING APART:  
THE FUTURE OF MULTILATERALISM**

**TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Renault Girard, Le Figaro

16:00 - 17:15

**SIDE EVENT**

**NEW FRONTIERS FOR GREEN ECONOMIC  
TRANSFORMATION**

**BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor**

**Moderator** - Ramazan Zhampiisov, Adviser to Director  
General, "ECOJER"

**Session Partner** - UNDP

17:15 - 18:30

**NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK** Congress Centre

19:00 - 20:00

**GALA CONCERT**

**Astana Opera (by invitations)**

**1 Kunaev Str.**

20:00 - 21:00

**EVENING RECEPTION AND GALA DINNER**

**Astana Opera (by invitations)**

**1 Kunaev Str.**



# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

JUNE 9th 2023

## AGENDA

09:00 - 10:00

REGISTRATION / SECURITY CHECKING

10:00 - 11:15

**RETHINKING ENERGY SECURITY:  
THE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND SIMPLISTIC  
SOLUTIONS**

**ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Ali Aslan, Former CNN, ABC News and  
Deutsche Welle TV

**Session Partner** - Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan

10:00 - 11:15

**FOREFRONT OF FINANCE: INNOVATION AS  
A DRIVING FORCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY**  
**CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Renat Bekturov, AIFC Governor

**Session Partner** - AIFC

10:00 - 11:15

**ACTING WHEN OTHERS CAN'T:  
MIDDLE POWER DIPLOMACY IN CHALLENGING  
TIMES**

**BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Stephen Cole, Former BBC

10:00 - 11:15

**THE TRUE PRICE: THE IMPACT OF GEOPOLITICAL  
TENSIONS ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Renaud Girard, Le Figaro

10:00 - 11:15

**DIGITALIZATION AND AI: IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS**  
**ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor**

**Moderator** - Michael Zinkaneil, Director of the Austrian  
Institute for European and Security Policy

**Session Partner** - MDDIAI

10:00 - 10:45

**THE GEOPOLITICS OF CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS**  
**BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor**

**Moderator** - Tony Barber, Financial Times

**Session Partner** - ERG

11:15 - 11:30

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK **Congress Centre**

# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

JUNE 9th 2023

## AGENDA

11:30 - 12:45

**CREATIVE ECONOMY: PROMOTING SUSTAINED  
AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**  
ULYTAU Hall, **Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Salvador Leal, Director of Communications  
at BIVA MX

**Session Partner** - Economic Research Institute

11:30 - 12:45

**SOCIAL DISRUPTION: DISINFORMATION  
AND THE POWER OF ALGORITHMS**  
CASPIAN Hall, **Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Arfush Walid, International Media Manager

11:30 - 12:45

**TURNING A TRICKLE INTO A FLOOD:  
FINANCING THE GREEN TRANSITION**  
BALKHASH Hall, **Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Laura Altinger, Head of Regional Nature,  
Climate and Energy Team, UNDP Bureau for Europe  
and Central Asia

**Session Partner** - UNDP

11:30 - 12:45

**ADVANCING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP: SUPPORTING  
INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL INITIATIVES**  
TURKISTAN Hall, **Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Charlotte Kan, Former Bloomberg

**Session Partner** - ASMAR

11:30 - 12:45

**SPECIAL SESSION: DIALOGUE WITH PATRICK  
POUYANNÉ, CEO OF TOTAL ENERGIES**  
ZHETYSU Hall, **Congress Centre, Second Floor**

**Moderator** - Richard Quest, CNN

11:30 - 12:45

**SIDE EVENT CURRENT TRENDS OF REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
BURABAY Hall, **Congress Centre, Second Floor**

**Moderator** - Ruslan Sultanov, Chairman of the  
Management Board of Economic Research Institute  
(ERI) JSC

# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

JUNE 9th 2023

## AGENDA

12:30 - 14:30

**SPECIAL SESSION: MEETING OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE WTO DR NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA AND MINISTERS OF TRADE FROM CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES AND AZERBAIJAN**

**Hilton Astana Hotel, Congress Centre**

12:45 - 13:45

**NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK** Congress Centre

12:45 - 13:45

**SIDE EVENT: Presentation of the Book  
THE NEW KAZAKHSTAN: STEERING THE STEPPE AMID  
A GLOBAL STORM**

**Press Centre, Congress Centre, Second Floor**

**Moderator** - Binur Zhalenov, Chairman, PFTDC NB,  
Kazakhstan

**Session Partner** - PFTDC

13:45 - 15:00

**COP28: ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONSEQUENCES OF ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY  
ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Bente Dalsbaek, Former Danish Broadcasting  
Corporation

**Session Partner** - ECOJER

13:45 - 15:00

**THE MIDDLE CORRIDOR:  
STRENGTHENING THE EURASIAN CONNECTIVITY  
CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Jonathan Charles, International Adviser to  
Kazakhstan, Former EBRD Managing Director, Former  
BBC

**Session Partner** - AIFC

13:45 - 15:00

**HALFWAY THERE BUT FAR BEHIND:  
TAKING STOCK OF THE 2030 AGENDA  
BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Ali Aslan, Former CNN, ABC News and  
Deutsche Welle TV

**Session Partner** - UNDP



# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

JUNE 9th 2023

## AGENDA

13:45 - 15:00

SIDE EVENT **GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR MODERN KAZAKH BUSINESS**  
**TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** Marc Uzan, Director of the Reinventing Bretton Woods Committee

**Session Partner** - NCE «Atameken»

13:45 - 15:00

**EURASIA: PAVING THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor**

**Moderator** - Afaf Saoudi, Executive Producer for Europe Region at Aljazeera Network

**Session Partner** - BAITEREK

13:45 - 15:00

SIDE EVENT **REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY: ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO ENSURE ENERGY SECURITY**  
**BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre, Second Floor**

**Moderator** - Andrei Mikhnev, the World Bank Country Manager for Kazakhstan

**Session Partner** - Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan

15:00-16:00

HIGH LEVEL SPECIAL SESSION:  
**DIALOGUE WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE WTO DR. NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA**  
**ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

16:00-16:30

NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK **Congress Centre**

16:45 - 18:00

**EDUCATION FOR ALL: DRIVER OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
**ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Bente Dalsbaek, Former Danish Broadcasting Corporation

# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

JUNE 9th 2023

## AGENDA

16:45 - 18:00

THINKING CREATIVELY ABOUT THE PROBLEM  
OF WATER SCARCITY  
CASPIAN Hall, **Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Stephen Cole, Former BBC

16:45 - 18:00

SIDE EVENT UNLOCKING THE BUCKLE OF SUSTAINABLE  
TRADE: THE ROLE OF DIGITALIZATION  
BALKHASH Hall, **Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Michaela Friberg-Storey, United Nations  
Resident Coordinator for Kazakhstan

**Session Partner** - UNECE

16:45 - 18:00

SIDE EVENT ACCELERATING GENDER PARITY  
TURKISTAN Hall, **Congress Centre, Grand Floor**

**Moderator** - Dina Daniyarova, National Coordinator of  
the World Economic Forum Accelerator in Kazakhstan

**Session Partner** - ASMAR

16:45 - 18:00

SIDE EVENT ON THE WAY TO CARBON NEUTRALITY:  
REAL EXPERIENCE

ZHETYSU Hall, **Congress Centre, Second Floor**

**Moderator** - Ramazan Zhampiissov, Advisor on  
Low-carbon Development

**Session Partner** - ECOJER

19:00 - 22:00

FOLK CULTURE FESTIVAL  
**EXPO site, Open Scene**



# ASTANA INTERNATIONAL FORUM | 2023

JUNE 8-9

PLENARY  
SESSION



# THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE FORUM

**Venue:** ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre



## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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



## MODERATOR

**Richard Quest**  
CNN

**The Plenary Session sits at the heart of this year's edition of the Astana International Forum. Hosted by the President of Kazakhstan, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the Plenary Session will focus on the state of the world today and the way forward toward peace, cooperation, and greater economic progress.**

The Plenary Session brings together heads of state and government, as well as executives of renowned international organizations on stage.

The President of Kazakhstan will set out the Forum's global vision and message. The speakers of the Plenary Session will discuss the current state of the world and global narratives that shape some of the most important geopolitical trends of today.

This inaugural event will set the stage for 40 panels and side events that will cover dozens of topics, from climate change to international diplomacy and security.

## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS



**His Highness  
Sheikh Tamim Bin  
Hamad Al Thani**  
Amir of the State of Qatar



**Kristalina Georgieva**  
Managing Director, International  
Monetary Fund (IMF)



**His Excellency  
Sadyr Zhaparov**  
President of the Kyrgyz  
Republic



**Audrey Azoulay**  
Director General, United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



**Her Excellency  
Željka Cvijanović**  
Chairwoman of the Presidency  
of Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Armida Alisjahbana**  
Under-Secretary-General of the  
United Nations and Executive  
Secretary of ESCAP



**His Excellency  
Abdulla Aripov**  
Prime Minister  
of the Republic of Uzbekistan

# OUR PANELS

Over the course of two days, the Astana International Forum will host hundreds of international speakers and moderators on 40 panels and side events.

Our program has been designed to address the key challenges the world is facing today. Under the overarching theme **“Tackling Challenges Through Dialogue: Towards Cooperation, Development, and Progress”**, the forum’s vision is divided into four themes that will be jointly addressed.



FOREIGN POLICY  
AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND SUSTAINABILITY



ENERGY  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE



ECONOMY AND FINANCE





# FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY



[astanainternationalforum.org](https://astanainternationalforum.org)



# RETHINKING PEACE, CONFLICT, AND THE GLOBAL ORDER

**Venue:** ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Ali Aslan**

Former CNN, ABC  
News and Deutsche  
Welle TV

The panel will focus on the current state of global peace and security, the most pressing challenges facing the international community today, and strategies that could help us return to stability and international cooperation.



## SPEAKERS

**José Manuel Barroso**

Former President of the  
European Commission and  
Non-Executive Chairman of  
Goldman Sachs International

The panelists will engage in an in-depth discussion on the root causes of global conflicts, including political grievances, the quest for power and dominance within the changing international order, the divisions and new alignments across the continents, and the continued deterioration of dialogue and constructive diplomacy.



**Thierry de Montbrial**

Founder and Executive  
Chairman, French Institute of  
International Relations (IFRI)

Overall, the panel will provide diplomats, policymakers, academics, and business leaders with valuable insights on how to navigate through the polarized world and how to better understand the complex international relations in the era of great power competition.



**Zhang Ming**

Secretary-General of the  
Shanghai Cooperation  
Organization



**Elvira Azimova**

Chairperson of the  
Constitutional Court, Republic  
of Kazakhstan



**Rae Kwon Chung**

Nobel Prize Laureate, Board  
Director of the Ban Ki-moon  
Foundation



**Tiberio Graziani**

Chairman at Vision & Global  
Trends. International Institute for  
Global Analyses



**Tuula Yrjölä**

Director of the OSCE Conflict  
Prevention Centre (CPC) and  
Deputy Head of the OSCE

# ACTING WHEN OTHERS CAN'T: MIDDLE POWER DIPLOMACY IN CHALLENGING TIMES

**Venue:** BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Stephen Cole**  
Former BBC

**This panel focuses on the role of middle powers in global diplomacy in the context of increasing tensions and polarization among major powers.**

It will look at the unique advantages that middle powers have, such as their ability to bridge gaps between major powers and their greater flexibility and adaptability when responding to changing geopolitical circumstances.



## SPEAKERS

**Maulen Ashimbayev**  
Chairperson, Senate of the  
Parliament of Kazakhstan



**Danny Quah**  
Dean, Li Ka Shing Professor  
in Economics, Lee Kuan Yew  
School of Public Policy, NUS

The panelists will discuss how middle powers can effectively navigate complex diplomatic challenges and promote stability and cooperation in a rapidly changing global landscape, with a special focus on the Central Asian region and Kazakhstan's role as a potential influential middle power mediator.



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

The discussion will also focus on how middle powers can play a more active role in shaping global norms and institutions to prevent the escalation of conflicts and promote cooperation among nations.



**Joshua Lincoln**  
Senior Fellow, Graduate School  
of Global Affairs at Tufts  
University



**Thomas Greminger**  
Swiss diplomat, Former  
Secretary-General OSCE

# COMING TOGETHER OR MOVING APART: THE FUTURE OF MULTILATERALISM

**Venue:** TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Renaud Girard**  
Le Figaro

**The rise of unilateralism in global politics and decision-making has challenged the previously-established global order and traditional diplomacy that have shaped the international system we know.**

## SPEAKERS



**Kairat Sarybay**  
Executive Director of the  
Secretariat, Conference on  
Interaction and Confidence  
Building Measure in Asia (CICA)

This panel will bring together experts from various fields, from policymakers to distinguished members of some of the key international organizations, to share their insights and perspectives on how constructive diplomacy can be revived.



**Kubanychbek Omuraliev**  
Secretary General, Organization  
of Turkic States

The discussion will question the role of international institutions and how they can best respond to the increased unilateral behavior in global decision-making. Challenges that prevent international cooperation and conflict resolution will be examined together, including what role might middle powers play in trying to bridge the East-West divisions through bold and innovative diplomatic initiatives.



**H.E. Judge Mohamed  
Abdel-Salam**  
Secretary General, the Muslim  
Council of Elders, UAE



**Gregory Lecomte**  
Head of Central Asia Unit, Global  
Relations and  
Cooperation Directorate, OECD



**Margareta Cederfelt**  
President of the OSCE  
Parliamentary Assembly



**Anil Sooklal**  
Sherpa of the RSA  
at BRICS

# OPPORTUNITIES OR CHALLENGES: THE UN'S ROLE IN ENSURING PEACE AND SECURITY

**Venue:** TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Stephen Cole**  
Former BBC

**This panel will examine the United Nations' (UN) role in promoting global peace and security, including its successes and challenges in preventing international conflicts and resolving disputes. Panelists will discuss the UN's unique position as a global organization dedicated to addressing contemporary global challenges through multilateral cooperation.**

## SPEAKERS



**Kairat Sarybay**  
Secretary General, Secretariat of  
Conference on Interaction and  
Confidence Building Measures in  
Asia (CICA)

The discussion will cover the current state of global security and the role of the UN in preventing and resolving conflicts, such as the use of UN peacekeeping missions and diplomatic efforts to resolve crises.



**Miroslav Jenča**  
Assistant Secretary-General  
for Europe, Central Asia and  
Americas, DPPA

Panelists will analyze the challenges facing the UN, including issues related to funding, vision, political polarization, and the changing nature of conflict in the 21st century.



**David Chikvaidze**  
Chef de Cabinet, Office of the  
Director-General, UN



**Terhi Hakala**  
EU Special Representative for  
Central Asia





# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY



# WHEN CHAINS BREAK: THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION ON FOOD SECURITY

**Venue:** BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Tony Barber**  
Financial Times

**Global food security is highly dependent on the ability of countries to efficiently and effectively transport food from where it is produced to where it is consumed. Supply chain disruptions caused by conflicts, trade disputes, or natural disasters can have severe consequences on international food security.**

## SPEAKERS



**Janusz Czesław Wojciechowski**  
European Commissioner for  
Agriculture

This panel session will explore the effects of disruption and politicization of global supply chains on food security, with a special focus on recent conflicts.



**Darren Siekman**  
Vice President,  
Valmont industries

It will also explore the role of governments, international organizations, and the private sector in mitigating the impact of supply chain disruptions on food security.



**Yerbol Karashukeyev**  
Minister of Agriculture of  
Kazakhstan

**Session Partner**  
Economic Research Institute



**Michael Roe**  
Chairman, Israel-Kazakhstan  
Chamber of Commerce and  
Industry

# SOCIAL DISRUPTION: DISINFORMATION AND THE POWER OF ALGORITHMS

**Venue:** CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Arfush Walid**  
International Media  
Manager

**This discussion will address issues related to disinformation, the use of algorithms, and the impact of artificial intelligence on societies.**

Panelists will explore how algorithms and artificial intelligence used for social media can impact the way misinformation and fake news are spread online, as well as how these technologies can influence user behavior. Various types of disinformation will also be discussed, including political propaganda, manipulation of public opinion, fake news, and conspiracy theories, as well as the consequences they can have on our lives.

Participants will also discuss possible approaches to combatting disinformation and abuse of algorithms and artificial intelligence, such as social media regulation, improving digital literacy, teaching users critical thinking, and developing algorithms that are more ethical and open to public scrutiny.

## SPEAKERS



**William Blaine Richardson III**  
Former governor of New  
Mexico, US Presidential  
Administration



**Yeldos Nashirali**  
Chairman of the Information  
Committee of the Ministry  
of Information and Public  
Development of Kazakhstan



**Vitaliy Voronov**  
Founder of Transparency  
International, Kazakhstan



**Thomas J. Everett-Heath**  
Global Head of Forensic  
Investigations and Intelligence  
at Kroll



**Charles McLean**  
Former NBC's Africa Bureau  
Chief

# THE TRUE PRICE: THE IMPACT OF GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS ON GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

**Venue:** TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Renaud Girard**  
Le Figaro

**This discussion will focus on the economic, social, and political consequences of geopolitical tensions on international development. It will explore the role of major powers and their impact on global development, focusing on the frequent use of economic sanctions and trade restrictions as means of exerting geopolitical influence.**

## SPEAKERS



**Baghdad Amreyev**  
President of the Turkic Investment Fund by the Leaders of OTS

The discussion will also address the impact of technological innovation and digitalization on global development, as well as the potential for cooperation among nations when trying to address these challenges.



**William Tompson**  
Head of Eurasia Division, OECD

Additionally, the panel will examine the impact of geopolitical tensions on humanitarian assistance efforts and the ability of countries to provide assistance to refugees and displaced persons.



**Lassina Zerbo**  
Former Prime-Minister of Burkina Faso



**Michael Levystone**  
Associate Research Fellow at the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)



**Andres Rodriguez-Pose**  
Princesa de Asturias Professor, LSE

# THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT ONE: ASSESSING PROGRESS ON GLOBAL HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

**Venue:** ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

### Afaf Saoudi

Executive Producer  
for Europe Region  
at Aljazeera Network

**This session will focus on issues related to global preparedness for future epidemics and pandemics.**

Panelists will discuss the challenges and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic to improve global preparedness for the future. Various aspects of global preparedness will be considered, including vulnerability assessments of different countries and regions, funding of preparatory measures, strengthening healthcare systems, increasing developments in medicine, as well as funding and research of new technologies.

The discussion will also seek to explore ways to improve the performance of international organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), in preparing for global epidemics and pandemics.

## SPEAKERS



### Skender Sylva

WHO Representative and Head  
of WHO Country Office in  
Kazakhstan



### Jaime Calderon

Migration Health Advisor for  
South-Eastern Europe, Eastern  
Europe & Central Asia, UN



### Dmitry Kozenkov

Head of Pfizer in Central Asia,  
Caucasus and Mongolia



### Kunsulu Zakarya

President of the Academy of  
Sciences under the President of  
the Republic of Kazakhstan



### Almaz Sharman

President of the Academy  
of Preventive Medicine of  
Kazakhstan



### Roberta Horth

Director, CDC Field  
Epidemiology Program for  
Central Asia

# HALFWAY THERE BUT FAR BEHIND: TAKING STOCK OF THE 2030 AGENDA

**Venue:** BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Ali Aslan**

Former CNN, ABC  
News and Deutsche  
Welle TV

**This session will focus on the issues surrounding the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and related commitments, including the effect of geopolitical crises and climate change disasters on sustainable development.**

## SPEAKERS



**Ivana Živković**

Assistant Secretary General,  
UNDP



**William Tompson**

Head of the Eurasia Division,  
OECD Global Relations  
Secretariat



**Alibek Kuantyrov**

Minister of National Economy  
of Kazakhstan



**Kestutis Jankauskas**

Ambassador of the European  
Union to Kazakhstan



**Michaela Friberg-Storey**

United Nations Resident  
Coordinator for Kazakhstan

The purpose of the session is to join efforts and debate the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Kazakhstan and the region. The session will focus on opportunities for cooperation in the area of SDGs and how to enhance effective sustainable development by identifying joint priorities based on the principle of “leaving no one behind.”

## Session Partner

**United Nations Development Programme  
in Kazakhstan (UNDP)**



# EDUCATION FOR ALL: DRIVER OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH

**Venue:** ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Bente Dalsbaek**  
Former Danish  
Broadcasting  
Corporation

The role of education is pivotal in driving economic growth. To understand how education can be a catalyst for sustained and stable economic progress, this panel will explore how it correlates with increased productivity, the quality of human capital development, and innovative approaches to business.

## SPEAKERS



**Nurbek Sayasat**  
Minister of Science and Higher  
Education of Kazakhstan

Esteemed experts from various fields will convene to explore the impact of education on the economy and will provide the audience with a deeper understanding of how by investing in education, countries can enhance their workforce capabilities, improve productivity, and drive innovation and technological advancements.



**Jeff Maggioncalda**  
CEO of Coursera

This panel will engage with policymakers, educators, economists, and business leaders as they address the challenges and opportunities in creating an education system that prepares individuals for the demands of the new global economy.



**Kathy Leach**  
British Ambassador to  
Kazakhstan



**Judy Kuo**  
Deputy Chief of Mission at the  
U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan

## Session Partner

**Ministry of Science and Higher Education  
of Kazakhstan**



**Ben Nelson**  
Founder and Chancellor of  
Minerva University



**Xavier Le Torrivellec**  
Attaché for Cooperation in  
the Field of Secondary and  
Higher Education of the French  
Embassy in Kazakhstan



# ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

# TURNING A TRICKLE INTO A FLOOD: FINANCING THE GREEN TRANSITION

**Venue:** BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Laura Altinger**

Head of Regional  
Nature, Climate and  
Energy Team, UNDP  
Bureau for Europe  
and Central Asia

## Scene setter



**John Hassler**

Professor of Economics at  
the Institute for International  
Economic Studies at Stockholm  
University

## SPEAKERS



**Ivana Živković**

Assistant Secretary General,  
UNDP



**Mathilde Mesnard**

Deputy Director and OECD  
Coordinator for Climate  
and Green Finance for the  
Environment Directorate



**Zulfiya Suleimenova**

Minister of Ecology and Natural  
Resources of Kazakhstan



**Renat Bekturov**

AIFC Governor



**Dmitry Mariyasin**

Deputy Executive Secretary,  
UNECE

**International climate finance is crucial for building trust and facilitating successful UNFCCC negotiations between developed and developing nations. Developed countries have obligations under the UNFCCC and are some of the largest contributors to international public finance. However, while green investments are on the rise, the developed world must do more to help developing countries gain access to efficient green financing.**

To address these issues, experts will gather to discuss the most significant challenges and opportunities for advancing green transition solutions. These solutions are necessary to facilitate the transition to a green economy.

The goal of this session is to address critical questions related to the green transition and its role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals and reducing emissions, as well as identifying the gaps that must be bridged.

## Session Partner

**United Nations Development Programme  
in Kazakhstan (UNDP)**



# THINKING CREATIVELY ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF WATER SCARCITY

**Venue:** CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Stephen Cole**  
Former BBC

**Water scarcity is a growing challenge for many countries and regions, with the UN warning that half of the world's population could be facing water stress by 2030.**

This panel session will explore innovative solutions to address the issue of water scarcity, particularly in the context of the climate crisis, by bringing together experts and thought leaders from various sectors.

The discussions will focus on the latest trends, opportunities, and challenges in the field of water security, highlighting innovative technologies, policy frameworks, and financing mechanisms that can help countries ensure access to water for all.

## SPEAKERS



**Randall Bruins**  
Former Professor, Ohio State University



**Kevin Meusch**  
General Director of Valmont industries for CIS and China



**Mathilde Mesnard**  
Deputy Director and OECD Coordinator for Climate and Green Finance for the Environment Directorate



**Estelle Peyen**  
Founder and President, XCSS - CROSS COUNTRY SKIING SAND



**Henk E. Nieboer**  
Owner and Director of Adaelta, Director of the Netherlands Water Partnership, Head of Netherlands-Kazakhstan Business Association, Honorary Council

## Session Partner

**Economic Research Institute**

# RETHINKING ENERGY SECURITY: THE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND SIMPLISTIC SOLUTIONS

**Venue:** ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Ali Aslan**

Former CNN, ABC  
News and Deutsche  
Welle TV

The idea that energy is crucial for ensuring a high quality of life is the basis for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda. To ensure that energy security is tied to a country's national security is a top priority for many governments.

## SPEAKERS



**Odile Renaud-Basso**

President of the European  
Bank for Reconstruction and  
Development (EBRD)

The purpose of this session is to consider the most important issues related to ensuring energy security, the development of alternative energy, and the need for reliable provision of all types of energy without excessive damage to the environment.



**Almassadam Satkaliyev**

Minister of Energy of  
Kazakhstan

## Session Partner

Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan



**Suheil Al-Mazroui**

Minister of Energy and  
Infrastructure, UAE



**Francesco La Camera**

Director-General of the  
International Renewable Energy  
Agency (IRENA)



**Masatsugu Asakawa**

President, Asian Development  
Bank (ADB)



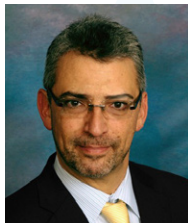
**Lorenzo Simonelli**

Chairman and CEO, Baker  
Hughes



# GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION

**Venue:** CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Ariel Cohen**  
Senior fellow at the  
Atlantic Council's  
Eurasia Center

The discussion will identify specific investment opportunities and needs related to green energy, as well as support measures for local and regional projects to transition to environmentally friendly energy.

The session will also examine the impact of the transition to green energy on employment, trade, and international relations, as well as possible risks and benefits for the economy and the environment.

This session provides a platform for discussion and exchange of experience between experts, investors, representatives of government organizations, and other stakeholders, aimed at developing specific strategies and measures to accelerate the transition to green energy.

## SPEAKERS



**Mahmoud Galal**  
CEO, BioEnergy



**Joshua Lincoln**  
Senior Fellow at the Graduate  
School of Global Affairs, Tufts  
University



**Sanzhar Zharkeshov**  
CEO, QazaqGaz



**Tim Yeo**  
Chairman, New Nuclear Watch  
Institute



**Jean Sentenac**  
CEO, Axens group



**Marco Arcelli**  
CEO, ACWA Power

## Session Partner

**International Financial Corporation (IFC)**

# GEOPOLITICS OF CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS

**Venue:** BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Tony Barber**  
Financial Times

Panelists will examine the strategic importance of critical raw materials in the context of the modern global economy, including their use in high-tech manufacturing, defense applications, and renewable energy technologies.

## SPEAKERS



**Nicolas Maes**  
CEO, Orano Mining



**Nick Popovic**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kazzinc Holdings LLP, Global Head of Glencore Copper and Zinc Department



**Gaye Christoffersen**  
Professor, Johns Hopkins University



**Shukhrat Ibragimov**  
Member of the Board of Directors, Eurasian Resources Group

The panel will provide a platform for experts to share their insights on the geopolitical dimensions of critical raw material production, distribution, and trade, including the impact of national policies on global supply chains and the potential for such materials to become a source of international tension and conflict.

## Session Partner

**Eurasian Resources Group (ERG)**

# COP28: ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY

**Venue:** ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Bente Dalsbaek**  
Former Danish  
Broadcasting  
Corporation

**As a global phenomenon, climate change causes serious environmental, economic, and social consequences that threaten our planet. The session will specifically focus on the consequences of achieving carbon neutrality and transitioning to a low-carbon economy.**

## SPEAKERS



**Rania Al-Mashat**  
Minister of International  
Cooperation of Egypt

Carbon neutrality is a crucial goal for the future development of the world that requires a continuous decrease of human activities' impact on the environment and global climate change.



**Bela Ferenczi**  
President for Russia and CIS,  
General Electric

With this in mind, the session will provide a platform for participants to share their insights and experiences on the environmental and economic consequences of achieving carbon neutrality. It will also address the challenges and opportunities of financing carbon neutrality and the importance of international cooperation in reaching this goal.



**Dario Liguti**  
Director of Sustainable Energy,  
UNECE



**Nurlan Zhakupov**  
CEO, Samruk-Kazyna

## Session Partner

**Kazakhstan Association of Regional  
Environmental Initiatives "ECOJER"**



**Matthew J. Sagers**  
Vice President, Oil and Gas,  
S&P Global



**David Moran**  
UK Regional Climate and Energy  
Security Ambassador for Europe  
and Central Asia



**Ariel Cohen**  
Senior fellow at the Atlantic  
Council's Eurasia Center

# RENEWABLES AND CARBON MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF CARBON NEUTRALITY

**Venue:** CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Charlotte Kan**  
Former Bloomberg

The session will feature experts from the energy sector, carbon market developers, and policymakers who will discuss the latest innovations in the renewable energy sector and technologies, the current state of carbon markets, and how they can be scaled up to accelerate the shift towards carbon neutrality.

## SPEAKERS



**Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi**  
CEO, Masdar company

The panelists will examine the role of renewable energy in reducing emissions and decarbonizing the economy, as well as the mechanisms for creating and trading carbon credits.



**Laura Altinger**  
Head of Regional Nature,  
Climate and Energy Team,  
UNDP Bureau for Europe and  
Central Asia

The session will also delve into the challenges of developing renewable energy and carbon markets, including regulatory frameworks, financing, and the need for international cooperation.



**Marco Arcelli**  
CEO, ACWA Power

## Session Partner

**Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)**



**Aida Sitdikova**  
Director Energy for Eurasia,  
Middle East and Africa,  
Sustainable Infrastructure  
Group, EBRD



**Yernar Zhanadil**  
Managing Director  
of Samruk-Kazyna





# ECONOMY AND FINANCE

# CREATIVE ECONOMY: PROMOTING SUSTAINED AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH

**Venue:** ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Salvador Leal**  
Director of  
Communications at  
BIVA MX

**This session will explore how to create a competitive and in-demand international arena for creative projects, including Kazakhstani ones.**

The development of creative industries is a crucial component of economic growth and diversification, which requires adequate support measures, an enabling environment, and international cooperation. Recently, Kazakhstan has rapidly advanced its music, cinema, and IT, reflecting the importance of the sectors for the country's economy and culture.

This session provides a unique opportunity to explore the potential of the creative industry and address the challenges of making it profitable in the new internationalized economies.

## SPEAKERS



**Daniar Amanaliev**  
Co-founder and Chairman of  
Kyrgyzstan's Creative Industries  
Association



**Alibek Kuantyrov**  
Minister of National Economy,  
Kazakhstan



**David Parrish**  
"T-shirts and Suits" Author,  
British expert in the creative  
industries



**Dwinita Larasati**  
Researcher, Institut Teknologi  
Bandung Focal Point, Bandung  
City of Design, UNESCO  
Creative Cities Network, Global  
Creative Economy Council



**Habip Asan**  
Director, Division for Transition  
and Developed Countries, WIPO

**Session Partner**  
**Economic Research Institute**

# CHARTING THE PATH BACK TO GROWTH: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE- BUILDING MEASURES

**Venue:** ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Charles McLean**  
Former NBC's Africa  
Bureau Chief

**Across the world, political instability, conflict and uncertainties continue to pose threats to stable economic growth.**

The turbulent times of the COVID-19 pandemic might have passed, but significant challenges that prevent states from reactivating their growth engines remain.

## SPEAKERS



**Ivo Germann**  
Deputy State Secretary,  
Ambassador, Head Foreign  
Economic Affairs Directorate,  
State Secretariat for Economic  
Affairs (SECO)



**Andres Rodriguez-Pose**  
Princesa de Asturias Professor,  
LSE



**Mirek Dušek**  
Managing Director, World  
Economic Forum (WEF)



**Ivailo Izvorski**  
Chief Economist, Europe and  
Central Asia region, World Bank



**Christian Megrelis**  
Chairman, EXA International



**Beknur Nesipbayev**  
CEO, Astana Motors

Despite the recent stabilization of the global economy and returns to pre-pandemic levels, growth remains one of the central issues. As markets begin to heal and look forward again, states have often been slow in responding to market opportunities and challenges, therefore, creating a fertile ground for stagnation.

The panelists will discuss various measures taken by governments and international organizations to address the negative economic impact of the pandemic and existing conflicts on regional economies, businesses and consumers.



# ADVANCING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP: SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL INITIATIVES

**Venue:** TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Charlotte Kan**  
Former Bloomberg

**By bringing together top CEOs and some of the world's most successful females, this session will explore how women's leadership benefits the corporate and political world and our globally interconnected economies.**

The discussion will focus on how female leadership brings innovation, diversity, and inclusivity to companies, leading to greater competitiveness and sustainability.

The panelists will share their experiences and insights on the challenges and opportunities of promoting gender diversity in leadership positions, the strategies for overcoming barriers to women's leadership, and the impact of gender-inclusive leadership on organizational culture and performance in some of the most competitive markets around the world.

The session will provide a platform for sharing best practices, innovative strategies, and inspiring stories of female leadership.

## SPEAKERS



**Michaela Friberg-Storey**  
United Nations Resident  
Coordinator for Kazakhstan



**Aida Balayeva**  
National Commission on  
Women's Affairs and Family and  
Demographic Policy



**Terhi Hakala**  
EU Special Representative  
for Central Asia



**Robert Parker**  
Trade Team Leader, Economic  
Development Office, USAID in  
Central Asia



**Liliana Palihovici**  
Special Representative of the  
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on  
Gender

**Session Partner**  
ASMAR

# THE MIDDLE CORRIDOR: STRENGTHENING THE EURASIAN CONNECTIVITY

**Venue:** CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Jonathan Charles**  
Former EBRD  
Managing Director,  
Former BBC

**Shifting trade flows and the global geopolitical environment are forcing countries to find newmarkets and diversify their traditional trade routes.**

In this context, the Middle Corridor – which connects Europe and Asia – has become an important route for strengthening the connectivity of the Eurasian continent.

## SPEAKERS



**Nurlan Sauranbayev**  
CEO, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy

Kazakhstan, in turn, can offer its own infrastructure to ensure uninterrupted trade flows along the route and the capabilities of the Astana International Financial Centre to structure deals, attract investments, and facilitate cross-border transactions.



**Zsuzsanna Hargitai**  
Managing Director, Central Asia,  
EBRD

The session will discuss global and regional trends in international trade, challenges related to trade regulations and international agreements along the route, and investment and cooperation needs to expand the existing infrastructure and create new ones.



**Wiebke Schloemer**  
Director, Central Asia and  
Turkey, International Financial  
Centre (IFC)



**Mirek Dušek**  
Managing Director, World  
Economic Forum (WEF)

## Session Partner

**Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)**



**Yang Zhao**  
Managing Director, CICC Global



# DIGITALIZATION AND AI: IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

**Venue:** ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Michael Zinkanell**  
Director of the Austrian  
Institute for European  
and Security Policy

**During the session, experts will discuss how the proliferation of these technologies has changed our lives, work, and interactions with one another.**

Panelists will cover the potential benefits and challenges of digitalization and AI, as well as their impact on the economy, employment, and the environment. Experts will also address ethical and legal considerations that arise with the use of AI, including issues of privacy, bias, and accountability.

The session will provide attendees with a comprehensive overview of the current state of digitalization and AI, including recent advancements and emerging trends. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the potential benefits and drawbacks of these technologies and their impact on society and the entire world.

## Session Partner

**Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan**

## SPEAKERS



**Bagdat Mussin**  
Minister of Digital Development,  
Innovation and Aerospace  
Industry, Kazakhstan



**Thomas Pramotedham**  
CEO, Presight AI



**Bakytzhan Dos**  
Founder of GoatChat AI



**Michelle Simmons**  
General Director for Central and  
Eastern of «Microsoft»



**Arkadiy Dobkin**  
CEO, President and Chairman,  
Board, EPAM Systems Inc.



**Alexander Sukharevsky**  
Senior Partner, McKinsey&Co

# MAPPING CENTRAL ASIAN CONNECTIVITY

**Venue:** BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Renaud Girard**  
Le Figaro

**Central Asian connectivity plays a crucial role in promoting economic development, regional stability, energy cooperation, trade integration, and cultural exchanges.**

By investing in connectivity projects and enhancing regional cooperation, Central Asian countries can unlock their full potential and reap the benefits of closer regional integration. However, today there are still a number of unresolved issues in the region in the field of water security, trade barriers, and elements of territorial friction.

At the same time, demographic shifts, climate change, and disruption of supply chains, accompanied by rising geopolitical uncertainty motivate Central Asian states to map broader connectivity mechanisms.

Five states are trying to balance external affairs in various forms stretching from C5+1 formats, regional platforms such as the SCO, the EEU and the CSTO, Belt and Road initiative. Considering all these trends, Central Asian states are entering a new stage of their political, economic and social development. Today, for leaders of Central Asian countries, the key task is to find the right balance between reforms, connectivity, and security.

## Session Partner

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

## SPEAKERS



**William Tompson**  
Head of the Eurasia Division  
at the OECD Global Relations  
Secretariat



**Dmitry Mariyasin**  
Deputy Executive Secretary,  
UNECE



**Yerkin Tukumov**  
Director of the Kazakhstan  
institute for strategic studies



**Farukh Sultonov**  
Country Officer, IFC Tajikistan



**Aziza Umarova**  
Head of Delivery Unit, Agency  
for Strategic Reforms,  
Uzbekistan

# FOREFRONT OF FINANCE: INNOVATION AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

**Venue:** CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Renat Bekturov**  
AIFC Governor

**Kazakhstan has proven its resilience during times of uncertainty, such as the financial crisis, the pandemic, and increasing geopolitical tensions, by focusing on nonoil sectors, FDI inflow, GDP growth and improving the collaboration between the public and private sectors.**

## SPEAKERS



**Uzziel Ndagijimana**  
Minister of Finance and  
Economic Planning, Rwanda

Now the country has embarked on an exciting new economic agenda and is at the forefront of digital and fintech innovation in the Central Asian region.



**Christina Doros**  
Vice President, Regional  
Manager, Central Asia and  
Azerbaijan, Visa

The goal of this session is to address critical questions related to the future of finance, technology and innovation in financial services as the driving forces for achieving a sustainable economy, as well as to identify the gaps that must be bridged.



**Sopnendu Mohanty**  
CFO, Monetary Authority  
Singapore

## Session Partner

**Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)**



**Timur Turlov**  
CEO Freedom Holding Corp.

# SPECIAL SESSIONS



[astanainternationalforum.org](https://astanainternationalforum.org)



**HIGH LEVEL SPECIAL SESSION:**

# Dialogue with WTO Director General, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

**Venue:** ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre



**Guest**

**Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**  
WTO Director General

**This Special Session provides a unique platform for an in-depth discussion on cooperation between the WTO and Kazakhstan.**

During this session, participants will engage in a constructive dialogue on trade policies, market access, and the role of Kazakhstan in the global trading system. The Director-General of the WTO and a Kazakh Government Official will exchange insights, share perspectives, and explore avenues for enhanced partnership to promote economic growth and sustainable development.

This high-level dialogue showcases the commitment of the WTO and Kazakhstan to fostering productive engagement and strengthening trade ties.



**Moderator**

**Timur Suleimenov**  
First Deputy Chief of  
Staff of the President  
of the Republic of  
Kazakhstan

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

# Dialogue with Mulatu Teshome, Former President of Ethiopia

**Venue:** BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre

**The thematic topic:** Pan-Africanism & Africa's New Role  
in Addressing Global Problems



**Guest**

**Mulatu Teshome**  
Former President  
of Ethiopia

This compelling session offers a unique opportunity to engage with a distinguished guest and gain profound insights into the intersection of Pan-Africanism and Africa's evolving role in tackling global challenges.

President Teshome, renowned for his extensive experience and deep understanding of African affairs, will share his perspectives on the historical significance and contemporary relevance of Pan-Africanism as a unifying ideology for the African continent. Through an engaging conversation, he will explore Africa's emerging role in addressing critical global issues such as climate change, economic inequality, peace and security, and sustainable development.



**Moderator**

**Charles McLean**  
Former NBC's Africa  
Bureau Chief

Attendees of this Special Session can expect valuable insights into the strategies, policies, and initiatives that can reflect Africa's potential, resources, and human capital to shape a more equitable, inclusive, and prosperous world.

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

# Meeting of the Director-General of the World Trade Organization Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Ministers of Trade from Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan

**Venue:** Hilton Astana Hotel, Congress Centre



**Guest**

**Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**  
WTO Director General

**This meeting brings together the Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Ministers of Trade from Central Asian countries and Azerbaijan.**

The aim is to facilitate productive discussions on trade policies, market access, and economic cooperation in the region. Participants will exchange views, experiences, and best practices to promote regional integration and inclusive growth. The meeting underscores the commitment to supporting trade development in Central Asia and Azerbaijan and the increased cooperation between all represented countries.

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

# Dialogue with Patrick Pouyanné, CEO of TotalEnergies

**Venue:** ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre



**Guest**

**Patrick Pouyanné**  
CEO of TotalEnergies

**This Special Session centers around TotalEnergies' activities, including their engagement in Kazakhstan, as well as the evolving trends in green technology, energy transition and carbon neutrality.**

During this session, participants will have the unique opportunity to engage directly with Mr. Pouyanné, gaining insights into TotalEnergies' sustainable practices, initiatives, and its impact on Kazakhstan's energy sector. Discussions will evolve around the company's commitment to green technology, strategies for transitioning to cleaner energy sources, and its contribution to achieving net zero goals.





# **SIDE** EVENTS



# Central Asia in The Multilateral Trading System: The Case for WTO Accession

**Side event organizer:** World Trade Organization (WTO)

**Venue:** Hall 1, EXPO International Exhibition Center



## Moderator

### Zhanar Aitzhan

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the WTO and International Economic Organizations

**Sitting at the heart of ancient trade routes, Central Asia is reasserting its role in global commerce. The economies of Central Asia have become active participants in the multilateral trading system through accession to the WTO.**

The Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan became members of the WTO in 1998, 2013, and 2015, respectively. Uzbekistan has intensified its WTO accession negotiations with the aim of obtaining membership soon, while Turkmenistan initiated WTO accession negotiations in February 2022.

In addition, countries from the region have also begun to demonstrate a leadership role in the system after joining, with Kazakhstan chairing the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference in June 2022.

This session will bring together representatives of the Central Asian countries as well as Azerbaijan - another WTO acceding country - to discuss the opportunities of WTO accession and membership, and the challenges that lie ahead for individual countries and for the region as a whole.

# From E-Commerce to Paperless Borders: How Digitalization is Revolutionizing

**Side event organizer:** World Trade Organization (WTO)

**Venue:** Hall 1, EXPO International Exhibition Center



## **Moderator**

**Pierre Bonthonneau**  
ITC Senior TF Adviser

Digital transformation is rapidly reshaping the global economy, but are international and national frameworks keeping pace with an increasingly digital world? There is increasing awareness that digital inclusion is critical to harnessing the full potential of cross-border trade. Leveraging digital technologies can substantially reduce the time and cost of trade, and promoting “smart” solutions at the borders can increase the sustainability of trade practices.

But is Central Asia e-ready? This session will explore the cross-dimensional impact of digitalization on the overall trade landscape in the region and focus on the interlinkages between e-commerce, domestic, regional, and international policies and regulatory reforms.

By formulating forward-looking national policies, countries from the region would be better placed to negotiate coherent WTO accession commitments and participate more effectively in WTO discussions in this area.

# New Frontiers for Green Economic Transformation

## Side event organizer:

United Nations Development Programme in Kazakhstan (UNDP)

**Venue:** BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre



## Moderator

**Ramazan Zhampiisov**

Advisor on Low-carbon  
Development, ECOJER

Achieving the 2030 Agenda requires a new type of economic transformation, one that is resilient and that leaves no one behind while adhering to planetary boundaries and the ecological foundations of economies. The recent Stockholm+50 Conference reinforced the importance of economic transformation for a prosperous future and the health of our planet.

While many Governments have reconfirmed their long-term commitments to decarbonization, immediate fiscal pressures and the needs of covering energy demand and ensuring food security make it more difficult to put in place the policies that are needed to lay the ground for economic transformation.

This side event challenges the current narrative. There are compelling arguments for the assertion that present challenges in fact strengthen the case for transition, as countries seek to increase not only sustainability but resilience.



# Unlocking the buckle of sustainable trade: the role of digitalization

## Side event organizer:

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

**Venue:** BALKHASH Hall, Congress Centre



## Moderator

**Michaela Friberg-Storey**  
United Nations Resident  
Coordinator for  
Kazakhstan

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, air pollution, and biodiversity loss, together with the COVID-19 pandemic and a complex global economic outlook have urged governments worldwide to reassess their development strategies. For Central Asia, the need to diversify production and strengthen trade links with the rest of the world has become more urgent. This also includes intensifying the WTO accession process for some economies in the region.

Digital tools are playing an increasingly important role in shaping the green and sustainable policy frameworks for Central Asia.

This session will discuss how to catalyze digitally driven, green transformation to support Central Asia's integration into global and regional value chains by building on UNECE's long-standing experience with capacity building and normative work.

The session will address the double challenge of the digital and green transition with the goal of finding balanced approaches that reduce costs and build capabilities that can boost CentralAsia's integration into global and regional trade.

# Eurasia: Paving the Way for Sustainable Development

## Side event organizer:

“Baiterek” National Managing Holding JSC

**Venue:** ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

### Afaf Saudi

Executive Producer  
for Europe Region  
at Aljazeera Network

## This session will focus on sustainable development in the Eurasian region.

The panelists will discuss sustainable development in Eurasia, focusing on the region's current state of development, potential opportunities, and obstacles to achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs). They will explore the role of regional cooperation and collaboration in addressing common sustainability issues such as climate change, resource depletion, inequality, and poverty reduction. The panelists will also discuss innovative solutions and best practices that have proven successful in promoting sustainable development in different contexts.

The objective of the session is to promote economic growth and development in Eurasia while at the same time ensuring that this growth is sustainable and does not harm the environment.

# Global Challenges and New Opportunities for Modern Kazakh Business

## Side event organizer:

National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan “Atameken”

**Venue:** TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



## Moderator

**Marc Uzan**

Director of the  
Reinventing Bretton  
Woods

The panel will focus on the new challenges for businesses and the search for possible ways to overcome them in order to increase the competitiveness and adaptability of Kazakhstan's market. To promote the accelerated development of entrepreneurship, it is necessary to form a new system of state support for SMEs as a response to today's challenges.

The ongoing fundamental and rapid changes in all spheres of the economy require a change in approaches to cooperation and the development of new mechanisms for interaction.

The importance of business associations is growing as they increasingly engage in addressing emerging structural imbalances and securing private investment for business development.

This panel aims to identify new approaches that can attract investment to the Kazakh economy.

# Regional Development in Renewable Energy: Alternative Ways to Ensure Energy Security

## Side event organizer:

Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan

**Venue:** BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre



## Moderator

**Andrei Mikhnev**

World Bank Country  
Manager for Kazakhstan

In recent years, Central Asian countries have committed to contribute to reducing emissions that cause climate change by improving regulation, joining relevant international pledges and making sure that new technologies are introduced for a safer and more sustainable transition.

This panel aims to identify common goals for the development of the energy industry in Central Asia and best practices that can be an inspiration for future cooperation between the region's energy and renewable energy sectors.

The discussion will also outline common challenges that Central Asian countries face on their green transition paths and what obstacles could be addressed on a regional level.



# On the Way to Carbon Neutrality

## Side event organizer:

Kazakhstan Association of Regional Environmental Initiatives “ECOJER”

**Venue:** ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre



## Moderator

**Ramazan Zhampiisov**

Advisor on Low-carbon Development, ECOJER

Climate change is a global issue with significant implications for our environment, economy, and society. The adoption of Kazakhstan's 2060 Carbon Neutrality Strategy and the introduction of the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) have stimulated Kazakhstan's businesses in their low-carbon development efforts.

As a country with rich fossil fuel resources and with coal being the main energy source for many years, the energy transition has become one of the major challenges for Kazakhstan's economy. Having cheap fuel prices and thousands of workers in polluting industries, businesses have to react quickly to the new conditions and transform their operational practices.

In this session, participants will explore discuss the critical goal of achieving carbon neutrality and transitioning to a low-carbon economy while specifically focusing on the private sector.

# Accelerating Gender Parity

**Side event organizer:** ASMAR

**Venue:** TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



## **Moderator**

**Dina Daniyarova**

National Coordinator  
of the Gender Parity  
Accelerator in  
Kazakhstan

**This session will shed light on various programs designed to address and close gender gaps, with a particular emphasis on the World Economic Forum's Gender Parity accelerator.**

The session will examine the results of the efforts put forth by governments and private sector companies in their pursuit of closing gender gaps. It will also delve into the challenges and obstacles faced by both governmental and private sector entities in their endeavor to reduce gender disparities. By acknowledging these difficulties, the session seeks to foster a comprehensive understanding of the complex nature of gender gaps and the intricacies involved in addressing them.

Overall, this session will emphasize the importance of understanding the challenges faced and the outcomes achieved, with the ultimate goal of accelerating progress towards achieving gender parity and promoting a more inclusive society.

# Energy Security and the Role of Gas in the Energy Transition

**Side event organizer:** JSC “National Company “QazaqGaz”

**Venue:** London Hall, Astana International Financial Centre



## Moderator

**Dulatbek Ikbaev**  
Director of McKinsey  
and Company  
Kazakhstan

**Shifts in the global gas market are significantly impacting businesses and millions of people worldwide.**

In light of the effects of the recent global energy crisis, Kazakhstan has focused on energy security while continuing to stay committed to reducing CO2 emissions as required by the Paris Agreement.

QazaqGaz and the Government of Kazakhstan have already started to adopt historic improvements to entice investment and boost gas production.

This panel will look into the role of gas in achieving energy security and green energy transition in Kazakhstan and around the world.

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