



# ASTANA INTERNATIONAL FORUM

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

[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 burning questions our societies face today.**

In view of the currently changing geopolitical realities, and while establishing effective and long-standing partnerships, the Forum is well placed to become a hub for open and constructive dialogues that have power to shape public debates across international borders.

By hearing and engaging with global experts in different fields, the Forum is a space 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  
REPRESENTED

# DAY 1 SCHEDULE

JUNE 8th 2023

## AGENDA

8:30 - 10:00	SECURITY CHECKING
11:00 - 11:15	AIF OPENING CEREMONY <b>(by invitation)</b>
11:15 - 12:30	PLENARY SESSION WITH HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENTS <b>(by invitation)</b>
12:30 - 13:30	NETWORKING LUNCH BREAK
13:00 - 13:30	REGISTRATION
13:30 - 14:45	RETHINKING PEACE, CONFLICT, AND GLOBAL ORDER <b>ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre</b> Moderator - Renault Girard, Le Figaro
13:30 - 14:45	OPPORTUNITIES OR CHALLENGES: THE UN'S ROLE IN ENSURING PEACE AND SECURITY <b>TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre</b> Moderator - Stephen Cole, Former BBC
13:30 - 14:45	MAPPING CENTRAL ASIAN CONNECTIVITY <b>BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre</b> Moderator - Ali Aslan, Former CNN Session Partner - KazISS
13:30 - 14:45	RENEWABLES AND CARBON MARKET DEVELOPMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF CARBON NEUTRALITY <b>CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre</b> Moderator - Charlotte Kan, Former Bloomberg Session Partner - AIFC
13:30 - 14:45	THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT ONE: ASSESSING PROGRESS ON GLOBAL HEALTH PREPAREDNESS <b>ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre</b> Moderator - Afaf Saoudi, Al Jazeera
13:30 - 14:45	SIDE EVENT: ENERGY SECURITY AND THE ROLE OF GAS IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION <b>London Hall, Astana International Financial Centre</b> Moderator - Dulatbek Ikbaev, Director of McKinsey and Company Kazakhstan LLP

# DAY 1 SCHEDULE

JUNE 8th 2023

## AGENDA

- 13:30 - 14:45** SPECIAL SESSION: **DIALOGUE WITH MULATU TESHOME, FORMER PRESIDENT OF ETHIOPIA**  
**BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Charles McLean, Former NBC's Africa Bureau Chief
- 14:45 - 15:00** NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK
- 14:45 - 16:15** SIDE EVENT: **CENTRAL ASIA IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADING SYSTEM: THE CASE FOR WTO ACCESSION**  
**Hall 1, EXPO International Exhibition Center**  
**Moderator** - Charles McLean, Former NBC's Africa Bureau Chief
- 14:45 - 16:15** SIDE EVENT: **FROM E-COMMERCE TO PAPERLESS BORDERS: HOW DIGITALIZATION IS REVOLUTIONIZING TRADE**  
**IEC "Expo", Hall 1**  
**Moderator** - Pierre Bonthonneau, ITC Senior TF Adviser
- 15:00 - 16:15** **CHARTING THE PATH BACK TO GROWTH: ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE-BUILDING MEASURES**  
**Hall 1, EXPO International Exhibition Center**  
**Moderator** - Zhanar Aitzhanova, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the WTO (Geneva)
- 15:00 - 16:15** **GREEN ENERGY TRANSITION**  
**CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Ariel Cohen, Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center  
**Session Partner** - IFC
- 15:00 - 16:15** **COMING TOGETHER OR MOVING APART: THE FUTURE OF MULTILATERALISM**  
**TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Renault Girard, Le Figaro
- 15:00 - 16:15** **WHEN CHAINS BREAK: THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN DISRUPTION ON FOOD SECURITY**  
**BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Tony Barber, Financial Times  
**Session Partner** - Economic Research Institute
- 15:00 - 16:15** SIDE EVENT  
**NEW FRONTIERS FOR GREEN ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION**  
**BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Robert Costanza, University College London  
**Session Partner** - UNDP
- 16:15 - 16:30** NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

JUNE 9th 2023

## AGENDA

09:00 - 10:00	REGISTRATION / SECURITY CHECKING
10:00 - 11:15	<p><b>RETHINKING ENERGY SECURITY: THE NEED TO MOVE BEYOND SIMPLISTIC SOLUTIONS</b> <b>ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> - Stephen Cole, Former BBC <b>Session Partner</b> - Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan</p>
10:00 - 11:15	<p><b>ACTING WHEN OTHERS CAN'T: MIDDLE POWER DIPLOMACY IN CHALLENGING TIMES</b> <b>BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> - Afaf Saoudi, Executive Producer for Europe at Aljazeera</p>
10:00 - 11:15	<p><b>FOREFRONT OF FINANCE: INNOVATION AS A DRIVING FORCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY</b> <b>CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> - Renat Bekturov, AIFC Governor <b>Session Partner</b> - AIFC</p>
10:00 - 11:15	<p><b>THE TRUE PRICE: THE IMPACT OF GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS ONGLOBAL DEVELOPMENT</b> <b>TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> - Renaud Girard, Le Figaro</p>
10:00 - 11:15	<p><b>DIGITALIZATION AND AI: IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS</b> <b>ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> - Alexander Sukharevsky, Senior Partner, McKinsey&amp;Co <b>Session Partner</b> - MDDIAI</p>
10:00 - 10:45	<p><b>THE GEOPOLITICS OF CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS</b> <b>BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> - Tony Barber, Financial Times <b>Session Partner</b> - ERG</p>
11:15 - 11:30	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

JUNE 9th 2023

## AGENDA

- 11:30 - 12:45 **CREATIVE ECONOMY: PROMOTING SUSTAINED AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH**  
**ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Salvador Leal, Director of Communications at BIVA MX  
**Session Partner** - Economic Research Institute
- 11:30 - 12:45 **TURNING A TRICKLE INTO A FLOOD: FINANCING THE GREEN TRANSITION**  
**BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Diane Coyle, University of Cambridge  
**Session Partner** - UNDP
- 11:30 - 12:45 **SOCIAL DISRUPTION: DISINFORMATION AND THE POWER OF ALGORITHMS**  
**CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Arfush Valid, International Media Manager  
**Session Partner** - Euronews
- 11:30 - 12:45 **ADVANCING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP: SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL INITIATIVES**  
**TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Charlotte Kan, Former Bloomberg  
**Session Partner** - ASMAR
- 11:30 - 12:45 **SPECIAL SESSION: DIALOGUE WITH PATRICK POUYANNE, CEO OF TOTAL ENERGIES**  
**ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Daniel Yergin, Chairman S&P Global
- 11:30 - 12:45 **EURASIA: PAVING THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Ali Aslan, Former CNN  
**Session Partner** - BAITEREK
- 12:00 - 13:00 **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**

# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

JUNE 9th 2023

## AGENDA

- 13:45 - 15:00 **COP28: ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF ACHIEVING CARBON NEUTRALITY**  
**ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre**
- Moderator** - Bente Dalsbaek, Former TV presenter  
**Session Partner** - ECOJER
- 13:45 - 15:00 **THE MIDDLE CORRIDOR: STRENGTHENING THE EURASIAN CONNECTIVITY**  
**CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre**
- 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**  
**BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre**
- Moderator** - Ali Aslan, Former CNN  
**Session Partner** - UNDP
- 13:45 - 15:00 **SIDE EVENT GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR MODERN KAZAKH BUSINESS**  
**TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre**
- Moderator** Raimbek Batalov, Chairman of the NCE «Atameken»  
**Session Partner** - NCE «Atameken»
- 13:45 - 15:00 **SIDE EVENT CURRENT TRENDS OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre**
- 13:45 - 15:00 **SIDE EVENT RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN REGION: ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO ENSURE ENERGY SECURITY**  
**BURABAY Hall, Congress Centre**
- Session Partner** - Ministry of Energy, Kazakhstan
- 15:00 - 15:15 **NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK**

# DAY 2 SCHEDULE

JUNE 9th 2023

## AGENDA

- 15:15 - 16:30** HIGH LEVEL SPECIAL SESSION:  
**DIALOGUE WITH WTO DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
DR. NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA**  
**ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre**
- 16:45 - 18:00** EDUCATION FOR ALL:  
**DRIVER OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
**ULYTAU Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Bente Dalsbaek, Former TV Presenter
- 16:45 - 18:00** THINKING CREATIVELY ABOUT THE PROBLEM  
OF WATER SCARCITY  
**CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Stephen Cole, Former BBC
- 16:45 - 18:00** SIDE EVENT **ACCELERATING GENDER PARITY**  
**TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre**  
**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**  
**Moderator** - Ramazan Zhampiissov, ECOJER  
**Session Partner** - ECOJER
- 16:45 - 18:00** SIDE EVENT **UNLOCKING THE BUCKLE OF SUSTAINABLE  
TRADE: THE ROLE OF DIGITALIZATION**  
**BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre**  
**Moderator** - Michaela Friberg-Storey, United Nations  
Resident Coordinator for Kazakhstan  
**Session Partner** - UNECE
- 19:00 - 22:00** FOLK CULTURE FESTIVAL  
**EXPO site, Open Scene**



# ASTANA INTERNATIONAL FORUM 2023 8-9 JUNE

## PLENARY SESSION

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# 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,**  
Emir 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



**Helga Schmid,**  
Secretary General  
of the OSCE

# OUR PANELS

Over the course of two days, the Astana International Forum will host dozens of international speakers and moderators of 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 overarching themes that need to be addressed.



FOREIGN POLICY  
AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
AND SUSTAINABILITY



ENERGY  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE



ECONOMY AND FINANCE

# FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY



[astanainternationalforum.org](http://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 moderated by Renaud Girard 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



**Thierry de Montbrial**, Founder  
and Executive Chairman,  
French Institute of International  
Relations (IFRI)



**Elvira Azimova**, Chairwoman,  
Constitutional Court of  
Kazakhstan



**RaeKwon Chung**, Board  
Member, Ban Ki-moon  
Foundation for a Better Future



**Helga Schmid**,  
Secretary General, OSCE



**Tiberio Graziani**, Chairman  
at Vision & Global Trends.  
International Institute for Global  
Analyses



**Zhang Ming**,  
Secretary-General of the  
Shanghai Cooperation  
Organization

The panellists will engage in an in-depth discussion on the root causes of global conflicts, including political grievances, 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.

Overall, the panel will provide diplomats, policymakers, academics and business leaders with valuable insights on how to navigate through the polarised world, and how to better understand the complicated state relationships in the era of great power competition.

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

**Venue:** BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Stephen Cole**,  
Former BBC



## SPEAKERS

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



**Bujar Osmani**, Minister of  
Foreign Affairs, the Republic  
of North Macedonia, OSCE  
Chairman-in-Office



**Danny Quah**, Dean and  
Professor in Economics, National  
University of Singapore



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



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



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



**Thomas Greminger**, Director,  
Geneva Centre for Security Policy  
and Former Secretary-General,  
OSCE

**This panel focuses on the role of middle powers in global diplomacy in the context of increasing tension and polarization among major powers. It will look at the unique advantages that middle powers have in diplomatic efforts, such as their ability to bridge gaps between major powers and their greater flexibility and adaptability in responding to changing circumstances.**

The panellists 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.

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.

# 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 has shaped the international system we know.**

## SPEAKERS



**Omuraliev Kubanychbek**,  
Secretary General, Organization  
of Turkic States Constitutional  
Court of Kazakhstan

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 could be revived.



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

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



**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, moderated by Stephen Cole, will examine the United Nations' (UN) role in promoting global peace and security, including its successes and challenges in preventing conflict 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



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

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.



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

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



**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:** BALHASH 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. However, supply chain disruptions caused by conflicts, trade disputes, or natural disasters can have severe consequences on food security.**

## SPEAKERS



**Janusz Czesław Wojciechowski,**  
European Commissioner for  
Agriculture

This panel session will explore the link between food security and the disruption or politicization of global supply chains, with a focus on recent conflicts and their impact on food security.



**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 Roee,** Chairman,  
Israel-Kazakhstan Chamber  
of Commerce and Industry

# SOCIAL DISRUPTION: DISINFORMATION AND THE POWER OF ALGORITHMS

**Venue:** CASPIAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Arfush Valid,**  
International Media  
Manager

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

Participants in the session will explore how algorithms and artificial intelligence used in social media can increase the likelihood of spreading misinformation and fake news, 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 conspiracies, as well as the consequences they can have on society.

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

## SPEAKERS



**Bill Richardson,** Former  
governor of New Mexico, US  
Presidential Administration



**Andreas Weigend,** Professor  
at Berkeley and Stanford  
University, Social Data Lab



**Vitaliy Voronov,** Co-Chairman  
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

**Session Partner**  
**Euronews**

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

**Venue:** TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Renaud Girard**  
Le Figaro

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

## SPEAKERS



**Baghdad Amreyev**, President,  
Turkic Investment Fund,  
Organization of Turkic States

The discussion will also address the impact of technological innovations and the digital divide on global development, as well as the potential for cooperation among nations to address these challenges.

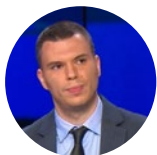


**William Tompson**, Head of the  
Eurasia Division at the OECD  
Global Relations Secretariat

Additionally, the panel will examine the impact of such geopolitical tensions on humanitarian assistance efforts, and the ability of countries to provide assistance to refugees and displaced persons. The discussion will focus on the potential for cooperation among nations to address these challenges.



**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,  
London School of Economics

# THINKING ABOUT THE NEXT ONE: ASSESSING PROGRESS ON GLOB- AL HEALTH PREPAREDNESS

**Venue:** ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

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

**This session, moderated by Tony Barber, will focus on issues related to preparation for global epidemics and pandemics.**

Panellists 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, and funding and research of new technologies.

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

## SPEAKERS



**Skender Syla,** 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  
Central Asia, Caucasus and  
Mongolia, Pfizer



**Kunsulu Zakarya,** President,  
National Academy of Sciences,  
Kazakhstan



**Almaz Sharman,** President of  
the Academy of Preventive  
Medicine of Kazakhstan

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

**Venue:** BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

**Ali Aslan**  
Former CNN

**This session will focus on 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, Kazakhstan



**Kestutis Jankauskas**, Ambassador, European Union to Kazakhstan



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

The purpose of the session is to joint efforts and exchange views in the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in Kazakhstan and developing solutions to achieve them. Session objectives include presentations of the speakers on opportunities for cooperation in the area of SDGs and enhancing effective development cooperation and identifying joint priorities for effective cooperation on the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

Against this backdrop, it is important to improve the effectiveness of development cooperation. This requires a greater understanding of how development effectiveness can influence policy and action at the country level.

## 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 intertwines with technology and 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 converge to explore the profound impact of education on the economy and will provide the audience a deeper understanding of how investing in education, countries can enhance their workforce capabilities, improve productivity, and drive innovation and technological advancements.



**Jeff Maggioncalda,**  
CEO of Coursera



**Kathy Leach,** British  
Ambassador to Kazakhstan

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.



**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



**Mechthild Sasse,** Attaché for  
Politics, Culture and Press of the  
German Embassy in Kazakhstan



# ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

**Venue:** BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre



## MODERATOR

### Laura Altinger

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

## Scene setter



**Ben Caldecott**, Director Sustainable Finance Group, Oxford

## SPEAKERS



**Ivana Živković**, Assistant Secretary General, UNDP



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



**Zulfija Suleimenova**, Vice-Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan



**Daniyar Kelbetov**, Chief Product Officer at AIFC Authority, Board Chairman of Green Finance Centre



**Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE



**Sukhrob Khojimatov**, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in Kazakhstan

**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 the 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)**



**Nurdaulet Aidossov**, Chairman of the Managing Board of Jusan Bank

# 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 environmental scientist USA Environmental Protection Agency



**Erdinc Guzel,** Member of the Executive Committee of the Foreign Investors Council



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



**Ashruf Megahed,** Regional Industry Head of Manufacturing, Agribusiness and Services sector in Central Asia, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Turkey



**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

## 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

The concept is that energy is crucial for ensuring a high quality of life and is the basis for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda. Ensuring energy security as one of the key components of national security is a priority task for the governments of the countries.

## 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, problems for the development of alternative energy, the need for reliable provision of the world economy with all types of energy without excessive damage to the environment, as well as to identify gaps that need to be addressed.



**Almassadam Satkaliyev,**  
Minister of Energy of  
Kazakhstan

The key messages of the discussion will be captured for further dissemination through various media channels and international events. This will ensure that the ideas and insights generated during these discussions reach a broad audience such as policymakers and academics.



**Suheil Al-Mazroui,**  
Minister of Energy and  
Infrastructure, UAE

## Session Partner

**Ministry of Energy of the Republic  
of Kazakhstan**



**Francesco La Camera,**  
Director-General of the  
International Renewable Energy  
Agency (IRENA)



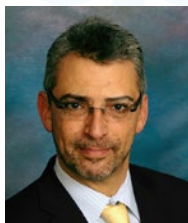
**Masatsugu Asakawa,** President,  
Asian Development Bank (ADB)



**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.

The “Green Energy Transition” 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



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



**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,** Head of Zinc and  
Copper at Glencore



**Gaye Christoffersen,** Former  
Professor of International Politics  
at Johns Hopkins University  
Nanjing Center

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 TV presenter

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

## SPEAKERS



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

Carbon neutrality is a crucial goal for further development of Kazakhstan's that considers continuous decrease of human activities' impact on the environment and global climate change.



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

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.



**Nurlan Zhakupov,** CEO,  
Samruk-Kazyna



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

## Session Partner

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



**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

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



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

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.



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

## Session Partner

**Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)**



**Marco Arcelli,**  
CEO, ACWA Power



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



# ECONOMY AND FINANCE



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

# 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. Kazakhstan has advanced in music, cinema, and IT, reflecting the importance of the sector 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 reality.

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



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



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



**George Gachara,**  
Social entrepreneur, Arts  
Manager, and the Managing  
Partner at HEVA Fund LLP



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



**Dwinita Larasati,**  
Professor and Member of  
the Indonesian Academy of  
Sciences



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

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

**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 COVID19 pandemic might have passed, but significant challenges that prevent states from reactivating their growth engines remain.

## SPEAKERS



**Ivo Germann,**  
Head of the Main Foreign Trade  
Directorate, State Secretariat for  
Economic Affairs Swiss  
Confederation (SECO)

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.



**Andres Rodriguez-Pose,**  
Princesa de Asturias Professor,  
London School of Economics

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.



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



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



**Christian Megrelis,**  
Chairman, EXA International

# 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 can bring innovation, diversity, and inclusivity to companies, leading to greater competitiveness and sustainability.

## SPEAKERS



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

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.



**Lazzat Ramazanova,** Deputy Chairman of the National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy



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

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



**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 new outlets to international markets and diversify their traditional trade routes.**

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

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

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

## Session Partner

**Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)**

## SPEAKERS



**Nurlan Sauranbayev,**  
CEO, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy



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



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



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



**Mikayil Jabbarov,**  
Minister of Economy, Azerbaijan

# 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.

## SPEAKERS



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



**Olga Skorokhodova,**  
Government Affairs & Public  
Policy Manager, Emerging  
Markets, Google



**Bakytzhan Dos,**  
Founder of GoatChat AI



**Michelle Simons,** General  
Director, Central and Eastern,  
Microsoft



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



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

## Session Partner

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

# 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, 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 a 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, KazISS



**Farrukh 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 non-oil sectors, FDI inflow, GDP growth and improving the collaboration between the public and private sectors.**



## SPEAKERS

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

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.



**Sri Mulyani Indrawati,**  
Minister of Finance of Indonesia

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



**Mikhail Lomtadze,**  
CEO, Kaspi.kz

## Session Partner

**Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)**



**Aidos Zhumagulov,**  
Freedom Bank



**Sopnendu Mohanty,**  
CFO, Monetary Authority  
Singapore



**Timur Turlov,**  
CEO Freedom Finance

# SPECIAL SESSIONS



[astanainternationalforum.org](http://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 in-depth discussions 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 the 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.

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

# Dialogue with Mulatu Teshome, Former President of Ethiopia

**Venue:** BALHASH 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.

Attendees of this Special session can expect a 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.

This session will foster a vibrant atmosphere for intellectual exchange, critical thinking, and cross-cultural dialogue. The Dialogue will offer a platform for networking with influential individuals, policymakers, and thought leaders who are committed to advancing Pan-Africanism and Africa's global contributions.



**Moderator**

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

**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 for sustainable economic prosperity.

**SPECIAL SESSION:**

# Dialogue with Patrick Pouyanne, CEO of TotalEnergies

**Venue:** ZHETYSU Hall, Congress Centre



**Guest**

**Patrick Pouyanne,**  
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 their impact on Kazakhstan's energy sector. Discussions will revolve around the company's commitment to green technology, strategies for transitioning to cleaner energy sources, and their contribution to achieving net zero goals.



**Moderator**

**Richard Quest,**  
Anchor and Correspondent,  
CNN Business editor-at-large

# SIDE EVENTS



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

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

**Venue:** IEC “Expo”, Hall 1, EXPO International Exhibition Center



## Moderator

**Zhanar Aitzhanova,**  
Ambassador, Permanent  
Representative of  
Kazakhstan to the WTO  
and other international  
economic organisations  
in Geneva

**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. 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 post-accession 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.

## SPEAKERS



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



**Rajesh Aggarwal,**  
OIC Director of the Department  
on Market Development, ITC



**Maika Oshikawa,** Director of the  
Accessions Division, WTO

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

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

**Venue:** IEC “Expo”, 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.

## SPEAKERS



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



**Dr. Ian Walden,** Expert on e-commerce regulation



**Uyama Tomochika,** Advisor to WTO DG



**Asel Zhanasova,** Head of Kazpost (TBC)

# 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 inclusive, resilient and job-intensive that leaves no one behind, adheres to planetary boundaries and strengthens the ecological foundations of economies. The recent Stockholm+50 Conference reinforced the importance of economic transformation for a prosperous future on a healthy 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 challenge the current narrative given that 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.

## KEYNOTE



**Maya Valcheva,**  
UNITAR - Partnership for Action  
on Green Economy

## SPEAKERS



**Kuanysh Beisengazin,**  
Deputy Chairman of the Board,  
Economic Research Institute



**Yerlan Abil,**  
Rector of the Academy of  
Public Administration under  
the President of the Republic of  
Kazakhstan



**Marat Shashkenov,**  
Economist, UN Resident  
Coordinator Office in  
Kazakhstan



**Nurlan Kapenov,**  
Chairman of the Board of  
Directors, ALE "Association of  
RES "Qazaq Green" for Green  
Economic Transformation

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

## Side event organizer:

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

**Venue:** BALHASH Hall, Congress Centre



### Moderator

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

### KEYNOTE



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

### SPEAKERS



**Kairat Torebayev,**  
Vice-Minister of Trade and  
Integration, Kazakhstan



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



**Rahimberdi Jepbarov,**  
Chairman of the State Bank for  
Foreign Economic Affairs of  
Turkmenistan



**Dmitry Mariyasin,**  
Deputy Executive Secretary,  
UNECE



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

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 to 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, sustainable and competitiveness policy frameworks for Central Asia.

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

The session will discuss the double challenge of the digital and green transition with the goal of finding balanced approaches that reduce costs and build capabilities that boost Central Asia'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.

## SPEAKERS



**Kanat Sharlapaev,**  
Chairman of the Board,  
Baiterek NMH



**Barry Chan,**  
Managing Director, Head of  
Investment Banking, Hong  
Kong, CICC



**Marie Helen Berard,**  
Member of the Board of  
Directors of Baiterek NMH  
JSC - Independent director



**Benoît Juster,**  
Executive Director of Rungis  
Market, Semmaris for  
Sustainable Development



**Eric Livny,**  
Regional Lead Economist for  
Central Asia, EBRD

# 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



### Moderator

**Murat Karimsakov,**  
Advisor, National Chamber  
of Entrepreneurs of  
Kazakhstan “Atameken”

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

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 to attract investment to the Kazakh economy.

# Global Challenges and New Opportunities for Modern Kazakh Business

## Side event organizer:

National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan “Atameken”

**Venue:** TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre

## SPEAKERS



**Nick Popovic,**  
Glencore International AG



**Rafis Abazov,**  
PhD, project manager for MDP program on sustainability at Earth Institute



**Rae Kwon Chung,**  
Ambassador, Ban Ki-moon Foundation for Better Future



**Raimbek Batalov,**  
Chairman of the Board of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs, Kazakhstan



**Abdullah Mohamed Al Mazrui,**  
Chairman of the UAE Federation of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry



**Wang Xiaoquan,**  
Executive Director of the China-Central Asia Common Future Research Center of the CITIC Reform and Development Research Foundation



**Selçuk Öztürk,**  
President of Board of Director, Chamber of Commerce of Türkiye



**Nurdaulet Aidossov,**  
Chairman, MB Jusan Bank JSC



**Hüseyin Özhan,**  
Director, Head of Kazakhstan, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development



**Sergey Stanovkin,**  
Head of BBC Global News Commercial Representatives in Eurasia



**Yernur Rysmagambetov,**  
Chairman, AIFC



**Danil Ibraev,**  
President of the Kyrgyz Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs

# 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 might be the obstacles on that path that could be addressed on a regional level.

## SPEAKERS



**Parviz Shahbazov,**  
Minister of Energy of the  
Republic of Azerbaijan



**Binu Parthan,**  
Deputy Director, Country  
Engagement and Partnerships  
Division, IRENA



**Almassadam Satkaliyev,**  
Minister of Energy of  
Kazakhstan



**Khairullo Ibodzoda,**  
ambassador of Tajikistan in  
Kazakhstan

# 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. 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, 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 the critical goal of achieving carbon neutrality and transitioning to a low-carbon economy, while specifically focusing on private sector.

## SPEAKERS



**Marco Castagnini,**  
Business Development Director,  
Green Park Limited



**Orcun Bakir,**  
Country General Director,  
Air Liquide



**Alex Stillavato,**  
Managing Director,  
ArmWind LLP



**Svetlana Vyrypaeva,**  
Managing Director, Central Asia  
Hewlett Packard Inc.

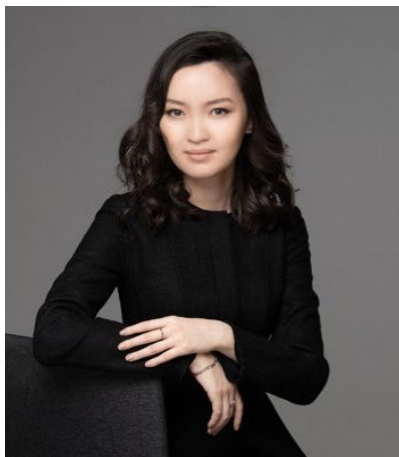


**Ahmed Khan Shadab,**  
Regional Director,  
Coca-Cola

# Accelerating gender parity

**Side event organizer:** ASMAR

**Venue:** TURKISTAN Hall, Congress Centre



**This session will focus on the programs aimed at closing gender gaps, including the World Economic Forum's Gender Parity accelerator.**

Speakers will address what impact results they have achieved in cooperation with the World Economic Forum and International Organizations.

The session will aim to highlight the issues faced, while government and private sector companies strive towards closing the gender gaps.

## Moderator

**Dina Daniyarova,**  
National Coordinator  
of the Gender Parity  
Accelerator in  
Kazakhstan

## SPEAKERS



**Lazzat Ramzanova,**  
Deputy Chairwoman of the  
National Commission on  
Women's Affairs, Family and  
Demographic Policy under the  
President of the Republic of  
Kazakhstan



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



**Maria Dotsenko,**  
UN Women Representative to  
Kazakhstan



**Esin Unal Yilmaz,**  
Vice President for Advisors, CIS  
Region, Mastercard

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

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

**Venue:** AIFC, London Hall



## Moderator

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

**The global gas market's shifts are significantly impacting businesses and millions of people worldwide. Global transit patterns have also dramatically, and this has impacted global geopolitics.**

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.

## SPEAKERS



**Sanzhar Zharkeshov,**  
Chairman, QazaqGaz JSC



**Wu Junli,**  
Executive Director Petrochina  
International Co.,Ltd, Petrochina  
International Co.,Ltd of Gas in  
the Energy Transition



**Andrea Stegher,**  
Head of Midstream McKinsey &  
Company

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