

# FORUM SPEAKERS



## H.E. GIORGI MARGVELASHVILI

### PRESIDENT OF GEORGIA

H.E. Giorgi Margvelashvili was elected President of Georgia on October 27th, 2013. A former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education and Science in the government of Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, President Margvelashvili is a committed democrat and reformer who revitalized the country's education system after years of neglect. While he is not affiliated with any political party, he was nominated to be the presidential candidate of the governing Georgian Dream Coalition in May 2013, and was elected with more than 62% of the vote. Before joining the Georgian Dream government after its victory in the October 2012 parliamentary elections, he was a well-known political commentator and served for more than a decade in senior positions at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA), a leading Georgian institution of higher education in government, law, international affairs and journalism. From 1996 to 1997, he taught philosophy and culture at Tbilisi Independent University. From 1995-2000, he was a local government expert in the Tbilisi office of the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the U.S.-based organization focused on strengthening democratic institutions worldwide. President Margvelashvili became briefly involved in Georgian politics prior to the November 2003 parliamentary elections, when he joined the opposition bloc led by former Prime Minister Zurab Zhvania. Following the Coalition's victory in these elections, President Margvelashvili was appointed Minister of Education and Science by Prime Minister Ivanishvili. In February 2013, he was appointed First Deputy Prime Minister and, in this capacity, worked closely with the Prime Minister, while continuing to fulfill his duties as Minister of Education and Science, until resigning from these positions in order to run for the October 2013 presidential elections. President Margvelashvili graduated from Tbilisi State University in 1992 with a degree in philosophy. He continued his studies at the Central European University in Prague, Czech Republic from 1993 to 1994 and the Institute of Philosophy of the Georgian Academy of Sciences from 1993 to 1996. In 1998, he received a Ph.D. in Philosophy from Tbilisi State University. President Margvelashvili is 44 years old and married, with a daughter, Ana, and newborn son, Teimuraz.



## H.E. Giorgi Kvirikashvili

### PRIME MINISTER OF GEORGIA

H.E. Giorgi Kvirikashvili is the Prime Minister of Georgia. Prior to becoming Prime Minister in December 2015, he served as Vice Prime Minister (2013-2015) while serving as Foreign Minister (2015) and Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development (2012-2015). Kvirikashvili is leading the effort to modernize Georgia's economy and advance the country on its way to European and Euro-Atlantic economic and security structures. In order to foster greater development and encourage broad-based economic growth, Kvirikashvili is enacting a four-point reform plan focused on enhancing the business environment, reforming the educational system, developing regional infrastructure, and promoting good governance. In his previous ministerial roles, Kvirikashvili spearheaded major initiatives to advance Georgia's Euro-Atlantic and European integration, position Georgia as vital corridor connecting East and West on the new Silk Road, and make the country a more attractive destination for foreign direct investment. During his 12-year career in the financial sector, Kvirikashvili served at various positions, including commercial bank leadership at the Chief Executive Officer level at one of Georgia's top 5 group member banks. He served as a Member of Parliament from 1999 to 2004 and as a team leader of the Parliament's working group on Georgia's accession to the WTO. He also completed several international consulting projects, advising on pension system reforms, financial sector reforms and bond market development. Kvirikashvili received a Master's degree in Finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the United States. He obtained an undergraduate degree in Economics from Tbilisi State University and an undergraduate degree in Medicine from Tbilisi State Medical Institute. He is married with four children and speaks Georgian, English, and Russian.



## MS. TINATIN KHIDASHELI

### MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF GEORGIA

Ms. Tinatin Khidasheli has served as Minister of Defense of Georgia since May of 2015. In 1992 Ms. Khidasheli graduated with a B.A. degree in Journalism from Tbilisi State University. Ms. Khidasheli also holds a M.A. degree in International Law from Tbilisi State University (1995), as well as a M.A. in Political Science from Central European University in Budapest, Hungary (1996). Ms. Khidasheli completed a one-year non-degree program in Human Rights Advocates at Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. in 1999. Post-graduation, in a period between 1992 and 1993, she worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia (on probation). Within the same period, she moved to the Parliament of Georgia to hold a position of a leading specialist for inter-parliamentary relations. Between 1995 and 1997, she served as a director of the First Free Legal Aid Centre in Georgia. Between 1997 and 2000, she held a teaching position at Hawaii University (Tbilisi campus). Between 2000 and 2004, she served as a member of the National Anti-Corruption Council in Georgia. In 2004 she became the Yale World Fellow for Yale University, USA. Between 2004 and 2005, Ms. Khidasheli served as a chairperson of the governing board of the Open Society Georgia Foundation. In 2006 she was an independent consultant on the rule of law, anti-corruption and good governance. Between 2005 and 2009, she served as Secretary of International Affairs at the Republican Party of Georgia and was elected as a member of the Party National Committee. In 2009 she took up the position of Secretary of Capital Affairs. In 2009 she became a consultant and co-authored the “August Ruins” report on human rights and humanitarian law violations that took place during the Georgian-Russian War in August 2008. Between 2010 and 2012, Ms. Khidasheli was elected and served as a member of the Tbilisi City Council, and between 2012 and 2015, she served as a member of the Parliament of Georgia representing the Sagarejo district, as well as chairing the committee on European Integration in the Parliament of Georgia.



## THE HONORABLE DONALD H. RUMSFELD

PRESIDENT, RUMSFELD FOUNDATION

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld currently chairs the nonprofit Rumsfeld Foundation with, Joyce, his wife of more than 60 years. The Foundation was established in 2007 to support leadership and public service at home and the growth of freer political and economic systems abroad. Rumsfeld published his number one New York Times best-selling memoir, *Known and Unknown*, in 2011. The book spans his career and is complemented by extensive primary source documentation that can be found on his website, [Rumsfeld.com](http://Rumsfeld.com). His second book, *Rumsfeld's Rules*, was published in May 2013, and was also featured on the New York Times Best Seller list. Recently, Rumsfeld ventured into the tech world, with the launch of his Churchill Solitaire "app." All of Rumsfeld's profits from his memoir, *Known and Unknown*, and from his Churchill Solitaire app are donated to the military charities supported by the Rumsfeld Foundation. Mr. Rumsfeld completed his second tour as Secretary of Defense in December 2006. During his tenure, he led the U.S. Department of Defense after the attack on 9/11 and in overseeing the reform and transformation of America's military to meet the new challenges of the 21st Century. A graduate of Princeton University and former naval aviator, Rumsfeld previously served as a Congressman, U.S. Ambassador to NATO, White House Chief of Staff under President Ford, Presidential Envoy to the Middle East for President Reagan, and CEO of two Fortune 500 companies and Chairman of a third. Rumsfeld and his wife have three children, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They reside in New Mexico, and spend time in Montana, Maryland and Washington, D.C.



## AMBASSADOR R. JAMES WOOLSEY

### CHAIRMAN, FOUNDATION FOR DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACIES

Ambassador R. James Woolsey is a Venture Partner with Lux Capital Management and Chairs the Board of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. Mr. Woolsey also currently chairs the Strategic Advisory Group of the Washington, D.C. private equity fund, Paladin Capital Group, chairs the Advisory Board of the Opportunities Development Group, and he is Of Counsel to the Washington, D.C. office of the Boston-based law firm, Goodwin Procter. He specializes in a range of alternative energy and security issues. Mr. Woolsey previously served in the U.S. Government on five different occasions, most recently (1993-95) as Director of Central Intelligence. From July 2002 to March 2008, Mr. Woolsey was a Vice President and officer of Booz Allen Hamilton, and then a Venture Partner with VantagePoint Venture Partners of San Bruno, CA until January 2011. During his 12 years of government service, in addition to heading the CIA and the Intelligence Community, Mr. Woolsey was: Ambassador to the Negotiation on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), Vienna, 1989–1991; Under Secretary of the Navy, 1977–1979; and General Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, 1970–1973. He was also appointed by the President to serve on a part-time basis in Geneva, Switzerland, 1983–1986, as Delegate at Large to the U.S.–Soviet Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) and Nuclear and Space Arms Talks (NST). As an officer in the U.S. Army, he was an adviser on the U.S. Delegation to the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT I), Helsinki and Vienna, 1969–1970. Mr. Woolsey serves on a range of government, corporate, and non-profit advisory boards and chairs several. He has also been a member of The National Commission on Terrorism, 1999–2000; The Commission to Assess the Ballistic Missile Threat to the U.S. (Rumsfeld Commission), 1998; The President’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Defense Management (Packard Commission), 1985–1986; and The President’s Commission on Strategic Forces (Scowcroft Commission), 1983. Mr. Woolsey received his B.A. degree from Stanford University (1963), an M.A. from Oxford University (Rhodes Scholar 1963–1965) and an LL.B from Yale Law School (1968).



## MR. HIKMAT ABDURAHMANOV

### CHAIRMAN, ASSOCIATION FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGIES OF UZBEKISTAN

Mr. Hikmat Abdurahmanov is the Chairman of the Association for International Business & Technologies of Uzbekistan and is Head of a commercial group of companies with a core staff of 70 people involved in international business including business tourism, trade, finance and advisory services for SMEs. Since 2006, the company has brought over \$100 million worth of mini-technologies to SMEs. With their assistance, over 3,000 Uzbek business executives and government officials have visited foreign trade shows, factories and forums in different countries. Mr. Abdurahmanov has successfully launched an Industrial Business Center named TechnoPlaza, a business center and incubator for local SMEs. Mr. Abdurahmanov is the Chairman of the Board of Central Eurasian Leadership Alliance (CELA). Mr. Abdurahmanov holds a BA (2001) and a MA (2004) in International Economic Relations from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent and a MA in International Business from the School of Management at St. Andrews, UK (2006).



## MR. MITCHELL BARAK

### FOUNDER, KEEVOON GLOBAL RESEARCH

Mr. Mitchell Barak is a pollster, political analyst and entrepreneur. Called an “Israeli-American public opinion expert” by the Wall Street Journal, and “one of Israel’s savviest pollsters” by The Washington Times, his opinions and surveys are regularly quoted in leading publications like the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Bloomberg, Politico, Huffington Post, and many others. A polling tech entrepreneur, he co-founded MOBOPINIONS, a technology start-up that has developed an innovative platform for polling, profiling and targeting mobile phone users. In the past three years he has fielded more than 4 million survey research questions in 160 different countries. He also founded KEEVOON Global Research, a survey research and political communications firm based in Israel and has conducted survey research projects, both qualitative and quantitative, in a variety of countries and languages. Mr. Barak held a number of appointed positions within the Israeli government including as international media adviser for Israeli President Shimon Peres, speechwriter for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and as an adviser to Finance Ministers Yaakov Neeman and Dan Meridor. Additionally, he worked as an aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Foreign Ministry and Prime Minister’s Office during the tenure of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. A New York native, Mr. Barak holds a B.A. degree in Political Science and Psychology from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He lives with his wife and their six children in Jerusalem. His hobbies are running, biking, photography and music, but he enjoys fatherhood and husbandry most.





## DR. VITALIY BAYLARBAYOV

### DEPUTY VICE PRESIDENT ON INVESTMENTS AND MARKETING, SOCAR

Dr. Vitaliy Baylarbayov has been the Deputy Vice President on Investments and Marketing of SOCAR, State Oil Company of Azerbaijan, since 2007. He is also a Member of the Association of International Petroleum Negotiators and a Member of the Board for Sarmatia, Euro-Asian Oil Transportation Corridor Project. He served as Chairman of the Board for Sarmatia in 2010 and 2015. Previously, he served as Transportation and Marketing Manager at Agip KCO (2003-2007) and as Deputy Director of the Agency of Foreign Investments at SOCAR (1995-2003). Dr. Baylarbayov has his Ph.D. in Economics.



## MR. ERIC BROWN

SENIOR FELLOW, HUDSON INSTITUTE

Mr. Eric Brown is a senior fellow at Hudson Institute, where, since 2004, he has conducted research on Middle East and Asian affairs, on security and development issues, alternative geopolitical futures and U.S. strategy. He is the editor, with Dr. Hillel Fradkin and Ambassador Husain Haqqani, of *Current Trends in Islamist Ideology*, ([www. CurrentTrends.org](http://www.CurrentTrends.org)), and has written for many other publications, including *The American Interest*, *The China Heritage Quarterly*, *The Wall Street Journal-Asia*, and the *Tony Blair Faith Foundation*. In recent years, he completed several lengthy net assessments. The first looked at the geopolitical implications of China's expanding involvement in Central and West Asia, the second looked at what changes in Kurdish Society may mean for the next order in the Middle East, and the third was on the future of religious conflict. Since 2006, a core focus of Brown's research and consulting has been on the relations between governance and security, and designing strategies for securing populations in contested areas, from the Himalayas to Kurdistan and northern Africa. He's now at work on two projects. One looks at the break-down of order and spreading conflicts in the greater Middle East and how the U.S. can best bolster its allies and partners to cope with this. The second study, newly begun, looks at alternative schemes for connecting Eurasia and practical ways to ensure that growing cross-continental connectivity enhances open, rules-based societies rather than undermine them. Mr. Brown studied history and philosophy at Marlboro College, the great books of India, China and Japan at St. John's College, as well as throughout Asia. As a student, he also conducted fieldwork on Islam and ethnic minorities in China.



## DR. STEPHEN CAMBONE

MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, RUMSFELD FOUNDATION

Dr. Stephen Cambone is a member of the Board of Directors of the Rumsfeld Foundation. He is also an independent consultant. Drawing on his extensive experience in government and business, he advises public and private sector leaders and managers in strategic plans and planning, operations, resource allocation and the use of technology to transform operations and business practices to increase capability and effectiveness, improve efficiency and achieve mission or financial objectives. He is the founder of Adirondack Advisors, LLC, and is an advisor to start up technology companies, public and private companies that service the national security market and to non-profit organizations. Dr. Cambone sits on the Proxy Board of MDA IS LLC and chairs its Government Security Committee and sits on the Special Security Board of Elbit Systems of America. He has served as the Thomas W. Smith Senior Fellow at the Ryan Center, Villanova University and is currently an adjunct faculty member at Johns Hopkins University. From 2007-2012, he served in senior corporate positions for QinetiQ North America (QNA). Prior to joining QNA, Dr. Cambone served from 2001-2006 in the Department of Defense. He was twice nominated by President Bush and confirmed for senior positions in the DoD, including as the first Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, responsible for the oversight of DoD's intelligence policy, activities and budgets and its relationship with the Director of National Intelligence and the broader Intelligence Community. Dr. Cambone was awarded the DoD Distinguished Public Service Medal by the Secretary of Defense, and the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal by the Director of National Intelligence. He was a Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Director of Research at the Institute for National Security Studies at the National Defense University. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) and the Advisory Board of the Volgenau School of IT and Engineering at George Mason University. Dr. Cambone received his Ph.D. and Master's degrees in Political Science from Claremont Graduate School and his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from The Catholic University of America.



## DR. SVANTE E. CORNELL

### DIRECTOR, CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE AND SILK ROAD STUDIES PROGRAM

Dr. Svante E. Cornell is the Director of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, a co-founder of the Institute for Security and Development Policy in Stockholm and an Associate Research Professor at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS. His main areas of expertise include security issues, state-building and transnational crime in Southwest and Central Asia, with a specific focus on the Caucasus and Turkey. He is the Editor of the Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst, the Joint Center's bi-weekly publication, and of the Joint Center's "Silk Road Papers" series. Dr. Cornell is the author of several books, including *Small Nations and Great Powers: the Ethnopolitical Conflict in the Caucasus* (2001), the first comprehensive study of the post-Soviet Caucasus, and *Azerbaijan since Independence* (2011). His dozens of articles have appeared in numerous academic and policy journals. Dr. Cornell received his undergraduate education at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, and he holds a Ph.D. in Peace and Conflict Studies from Uppsala University. He also holds an honorary doctoral degree from the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. He is a member of the Swedish Royal Academy of Military Science and a Research Fellow with the Wilfried Martens Center for European Studies in Brussels.



## AMBASSADOR ALBERTO M. FERNANDEZ

VICE PRESIDENT, MIDDLE EAST MEDIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Ambassador Alberto M. Fernandez is Vice President of the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI) and a member of the board at the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security (CCHS) at George Washington University. He was a Foreign Service Officer from 1983 to 2015 and served as the State Department's Coordinator for the Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications from 2012 to 2015. He also served as Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassies in Sudan and Equatorial Guinea. He held senior public diplomacy positions at the U.S. Embassies in Afghanistan, Jordan, Syria, Guatemala, Kuwait, and in the Department's Near East Affairs (NEA) Bureau. Ambassador Fernandez was a recipient of a 2008 Presidential Meritorious Service Award, the 2006 Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence in Public Diplomacy, a 2003 Superior Honor Award for his work in Afghanistan, among other awards. A graduate of the University of Arizona (B.A. and M.A.) and the Defense Language Institute, he served in the U.S. Army and came to the United States as a refugee from Cuba in 1959. He has published in *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, the *AFPC World Almanac of Islamism*, *Journal of International Security Affairs*, *WINEP Policy Brief*, the *Foreign Service Journal*, *MEMRI*, *Brookings*, *Georgetown Cornerstone*, *ReVista: the Harvard Review of Latin America*, *Middle East Quarterly*, the *Journal of the Assyrian Academic Society (JAAS)*, and lectured and debated on U.S. foreign policy in numerous international and academic venues.



## MR. FARRUKH IRNAZAROV

CO-FOUNDER AND COUNTRY DIRECTOR,  
CENTRAL ASIAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Mr. Farrukh Irnazarov is a Co-founder and Country Director at the Central Asian Development Institute, of Tashkent, Uzbekistan and a Ph.D. Candidate in International Studies at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. He is in charge of several research projects on economic development, labour migration, regional trade and transport issues in Central Asia. From 2008 to 2011, he worked as a Researcher at the University of Applied Sciences in Goettingen, Germany. In 2007 and 2008, Mr. Irnazarov was an Associate Faculty Lecturer in International Trade at the School of Business at the National College of Ireland in Dublin. From 2000 to 2003, Mr. Irnazarov held different positions at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of Uzbekistan. Mr. Irnazarov holds a B.A. in International Economic Relations from the National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent (2002), a Master of Social Science in International and European Relations from Linköping University, Sweden (2005) and a Master of Science in Business Administration and Economics from Stockholm University, Sweden (2006).



## THE HONORABLE IAN C. KELLY

### U.S. AMBASSADOR TO GEORGIA

The Honorable Ian C. Kelly, a career member of the Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, was sworn in as the Ambassador to Georgia on September 11, 2015. Ambassador Kelly just completed a tour as the Department of State's Diplomat in Residence at the University of Illinois at Chicago, a position he held since 2013. Prior to that, Mr. Kelly served as U.S. Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Vienna, Austria from 2010 to 2013. From December 2012 to September 2013, he also served concurrently as the U.S. Co-Chair of the OSCE Minsk Group on an interim basis. From May 2009 until his appointment as Ambassador, he was the Spokesperson for the U.S. Department of State. Before he was named Spokesperson, Ian Kelly was the Director of the Office of Russian Affairs in Washington, D.C. Prior to his return to Washington, he served as Public Affairs Advisor at the U.S. Mission to NATO (2004-2007), Press Attaché at Embassy Rome (2000-2004) and Press Attaché at the American Embassy in Ankara (1997-2000). As Director of Democratic Initiatives to the Newly Independent States (NIS) at the Department of State from 1994 to 1996, Kelly coordinated the activities of nearly a dozen federal agencies involved in democracy building in the former Soviet Union, and oversaw an annual budget of around \$80 million. Prior to assuming that assignment, Kelly was a regional Public Affairs Officer for the NIS, a job that took him to all twelve former Soviet republics. Other assignments include Information Center Director in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (1990-92) and Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer in Leningrad and Moscow, U.S.S.R. (1987-90). Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ambassador Kelly taught Russian at Columbia University in New York City, and received his doctorate at Columbia in Slavic Languages and Literatures in 1986. He also holds a B.A. from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and a M.A. from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Kelly speaks Russian and has studied Italian, Serbo-Croatian and Turkish at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center of the Department of State.



## AMBASSADOR ZALMAY KHALILZAD

### PRESIDENT, GRYPHON PARTNERS

Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad is President of Gryphon Partners, a global advisory firm based in Washington, D.C. and author of *The Envoy: From Kabul to the White House, My Journey Through a Turbulent World*. He has been involved with U.S. policy makers at the White House, State Department and Pentagon since the mid-1980s. In 2001, President George W. Bush asked Amb. Khalilzad to head the Bush-Cheney transition team for the DoD and Amb. Khalilzad briefly served as Counselor to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Later he was appointed as U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan (2003–2005), U.S. Ambassador to Iraq (2005–2007) and U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN (2007–2009). Prior to entering government service, Amb. Khalilzad worked as an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs from 1979 to 1989. During that time, he worked closely with Zbigniew Brzezinski, National Security Adviser to President Jimmy Carter. In 1984, Amb. Khalilzad accepted a one-year Council on Foreign Relations fellowship to join the State Department, where he was an advisor to the Near East and South Asia Bureau. From 1985 to 1989, Amb. Khalilzad served in President Ronald Reagan's Administration as a senior State Department official advising on the Soviet war in Afghanistan and the Iran–Iraq War. Between 1993 and 2000, Amb. Khalilzad was the Director of the Strategy, Doctrine, and Force Structure at the RAND Corporation. There, he helped found RAND's Center for Middle East Public Policy as well as "Strategic Appraisal," a periodic RAND publication. Amb. Khalilzad sits on the boards of the National Endowment for Democracy, America Abroad Media, the Atlantic Council, the RAND Corporation's Middle East Studies Center, the American University of Iraq in Suleymania, and the American University of Afghanistan. He is a counselor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Additionally, he is the founder of the Zalmay Khalilzad Chair on Afghanistan for the Atlantic Council's "Afghanistan Rising: Sustaining Success in Afghanistan" Initiative. He earned his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the American University of Beirut, as well as a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.





## DR. JOHANNES F. LINN

SENIOR FELLOW, THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

Dr. Johannes F. Linn is Resident Senior Scholar at the Emerging Markets Forum in Washington, D.C., Non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution and Senior Advisor at the Results for Development Institute (R4D). During 2011 and 2014 he was the External Chair of the 9th and 10th IFAD Replenishment consultations. From 2005-2010, Mr. Linn served as Director of the Wolfensohn Center for Development at Brookings. Prior to joining Brookings in 2003, he worked for three decades at the World Bank in various capacities. In 1991, Mr. Linn was the Bank's Vice President for Financial Policy and Resource Mobilization. From 1996 to 2003, Mr. Linn was the Bank's Vice President for Europe and Central Asia. Building on his last assignment at the World Bank, Mr. Linn engaged in intensive research and advisory work on Central Asia. He served as the project director and principal author of the UNDP's Central Asia Human Development Report (2005). During 2007-2010, Mr. Linn was Special Advisor to the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Forum (CAREC). He published a book jointly edited with Werner Hermann on Central Asia and the Caucasus: At the Crossroads of Eurasia in the 21st Century (Sage, 2011). He was project director and co-editor for the book Kazakhstan 2050: Toward a Modern Society for All (Oxford University Press, 2014). Mr. Linn has published extensively on development and global governance issues. His current research interests and recent publications are in the areas of aid effectiveness (with a special focus on scaling up successful development interventions), on global governance reform, and on regional cooperation (with a special focus on Central Asia). Mr. Linn holds a Bachelor degree from Oxford University (1968) and a doctorate in Economics from Cornell University (1973).



## DR. FRANK I. LUNTZ

### FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, LUNTZ GLOBAL

Dr. Frank I. Luntz is one of the most honored communication professionals in America today. Frank was named one of the four “Top Research Minds” by Business Week and “the hottest pollster” by The Boston Globe. The “Instant Response” focus group technique pioneered by Frank has been profiled on 60 Minutes, Good Morning America (on Election Day), and on PBS’s award-winning Frontline. He has been a guest on virtually every talk show in America. Frank has worked for 50 Fortune 500 companies and CEOs, but he’s best known for political commentary. More media outlets have turned to Dr. Luntz to understand the hopes and fears of Americans than to any other political pollster. Since 2007, Frank has been the “Focus Group Czar” for Fox News, conducting over 100 sessions in more than 20 states. For the past four years, Frank has served as a news analyst for CBS News, focusing on corporate crisis communications as well as politics. His reoccurring segments on MSNBC/CNBC, “100 Days, 1000 Voices” won the coveted Emmy Award in 2001. Frank has conducted focus group sessions for all three broadcast networks, two of the three cable news channels and PBS, as well as major publications. Dr. Luntz has written, supervised and conducted more than 2,500 surveys, focus groups, ad tests and dial sessions in more than two dozen countries and six continents over the past 20 years. His political knowledge and skills are recognized globally, and he has served as an election consultant and commentator in Canada, Britain, Israel, Ireland, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Australia, Venezuela and Ukraine. Frank is the author of three New York Times Best Sellers and has written about the power of language for numerous publications. From 1989 until 1996, Dr. Luntz was an adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania and has also taught courses at Harvard University and George Washington University. Frank graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with an honors B.A. in History and Political Science, and was awarded a Thouron Fellowship. He received his Ph.D. in Politics at the age of 25 from Oxford University.



## DR. JAMES MACDOUGALL

PROFESSOR OF NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY,  
NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE

Dr. James MacDougall is Professor of National Security Strategy at the National War College. From 2013-2014, he served as Chairman of the Department of National Security and Strategy at the U.S. Army War College. Previously, he was the Deputy Director of the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (2009-2013), a German-American institution founded to create a more stable security environment in Europe and Eurasia. Dr. MacDougall was a faculty member at the National War College from 2007 until 2009. As a DoD Senior Executive he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Eurasia from 2003 to 2007 where he was responsible for planning and developing U.S. defense and national security policy for Russia, Ukraine, and the countries of Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Balkans. That assignment culminated 15 years of civilian service in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy in positions focused primarily on U.S. strategy and policy regarding Russia and the states of the Eurasia region. He was awarded the Department of Defense's highest civilian award, the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal, by the Secretary of Defense for policy leadership and diplomatic achievement. Dr. MacDougall holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from Georgetown University.



## MR. RAKHIM OSHAKBAYEV

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,  
THE CENTER OF APPLIED RESEARCH “TALAP”

Mr. Rakhim Oshakbayev is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Center of Applied Research “TALAP,” a think-tank focused on macroeconomic research and economic policy. Before joining “TALAP,” from 2015 to March 2016, Mr. Oshakbayev served as a Vice-Minister for Investments and Development of the Republic of Kazakhstan where he was responsible for the development and implementation of investment policy and international cooperation in this area. Prior to joining the Ministry of Investment and Development, from 2011 to 2015, Mr. Oshakbayev served as a First Deputy Chairman of the Board of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of Kazakhstan “Atameken.” Mr. Oshakbayev also has robust experience working in senior management positions in different state-owned and private companies in Kazakhstan. Mr. Oshakbayev holds a B.S. in Economics from Lomonosov Moscow State University (1999).



## MR. RASSUL RYSMAMBETOV

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL FREEDOM PUBLIC FOUNDATION

Mr. Rassul Rysmambetov is Founder and Director of the Financial Freedom Public Foundation which conducts media and business consulting for SMEs in Kazakhstan. In addition to this, the Foundation consults small enterprises in areas of managerial accounting, margin assessment and cost analysis. He is also an author for Esquire (Kazakhstan) and Forbes (Kazakhstan), and serves as Head of the foreign news service at KazTAG News Agency. Previously, he was Director of EURA Investment Company, which consults in minerals and construction for South Korean companies (2006-2008), Coordinator of the Kazakh and English news service of Interfax-Kazakhstan (2002-2006), and a military analyst (2000-2001). Mr. Rysmambetov received his law degree at the Military Law School (2000) and his M.B.A. in Strategy and Finance at St. Gallen University in Switzerland (2014). He also received a Certificate in the U.S. Embassy's Overseas Training Program in May of 2000.



## DR. GULSHAN SACHDEVA

DIRECTOR, EUROPE AREA STUDIES PROGRAMME,  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

Dr. Gulshan Sachdeva is a professor of European studies and director of the Europe Area Studies Programme in the School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. Earlier he was chairperson of the Centre for European Studies and director Energy Studies Programme at JNU. His research interests include the European Union, Eurasian integration, Afghanistan, development cooperation and energy security. He headed the Asian Development Bank and the Asia Foundation projects on regional cooperation at the Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul (2006-2010). He was Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Chair on Contemporary India at the University of Leuven; and Visiting Professor at the University of Warsaw, University of Trento, University of Antwerp, Corvinus University of Budapest and Mykolas Romers University, Vilnius. He has written many project reports for industry and government ministries and published more than 100 research papers in academic journals and edited books. His recent publications include *India in a Reconnecting Eurasia* (Washington: CSIS, 2016) and *Evaluation of the EU-India Strategic Partnership and the Potential for its Revitalization* (Brussels: European Parliament, 2015). He holds a M.A. in Economics from Punjabi University, a M.Phil. in Soviet studies from JNU, and a Ph.D. in Economic Science from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



## MR. AZIM SADIKOV

### RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN GEORGIA, INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Mr. Azim Sadikov is the Resident Representative in Georgia of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Mr. Sadikov brings a wealth of experience in country and policy work at the IMF, including on emerging market economies of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and former Soviet transition countries. His areas of work include the financial sector, crisis resolution and prevention, debt as well as trade and development issues. Born and brought up in Uzbekistan, Mr. Sadikov has a solid understanding of the Caucasus and Central Asia and is well-versed in the economic challenges facing the region. Mr. Sadikov held positions in the private sectors in Uzbekistan. He earned a PhD in Economics at the University of Colorado at Boulder where he also taught Economics.



## DR. S. FREDERICK STARR

### FOUNDING CHAIRMAN, CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE AND SILK ROAD STUDIES PROGRAM

Dr. S. Frederick Starr is the founding Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, and a Research Professor at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS. His research on the countries of Greater Central Asia, their history, development, internal dynamics, as well as on U.S. policy towards the region, has resulted in 23 books and more than 200 published articles. He has also written extensively on architecture, music, and Russian politics and culture. One of his recent books, *The Ferghana Valley: The Heart of Central Asia*, involved the collaboration of some dozen scholars in four countries. During the past decade, Dr. Starr has returned repeatedly to addressing the challenges of reopening continental-wide transport passing through Central Asia and Afghanistan, which he sees as a key to success in Afghanistan. This issue was the subject of a series of articles he published between 2000-2008, and of his book, *The New Silk Roads* (2008). For Starr's articles that have had direct policy implications, refer to "Beyond the Fog of Nation Building: An Economic Strategy for Afghanistan" and "Finish the Job: An Economic Strategy for Afghanistan." In October 2013, his major publication, *Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age from the Arab Invasion to Tamerlane*, was published and is currently being translated into several languages worldwide.

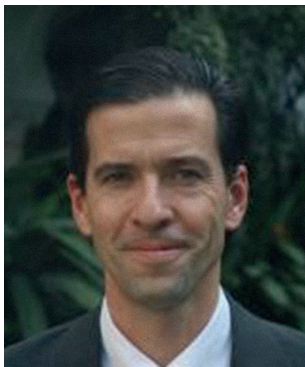




## DR. MAMUKA TSERETELI

### RESEARCH DIRECTOR, CENTRAL ASIA-CAUCASUS INSTITUTE AND SILK ROAD STUDIES PROGRAM

Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli is the Research Director at the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program. He previously served as the Director of the Center for Black Sea-Caspian Studies at the School of International Service at American University. He also served as an Assistant Professor at the School of International Service from 2007-2011. Dr. Tsereteli teaches classes on energy markets and energy security at Johns Hopkins University-SAIS and at American University. He speaks frequently at events related to international relations, economic development, energy security and country risk analysis in the Caucasus and Central Asia. His areas of expertise include international relations and international economic policy, economic and energy security, political and economic risk analysis and mitigation strategies, and business development. Dr. Tsereteli previously served as the founding Executive Director at the America-Georgia Business Council, and as Economic Counselor at the Embassy of Georgia in Washington, D.C., covering relationships with International Financial Institutions, U.S. assistance programs and business initiatives. He has actively facilitated the expansion and implementation of the multiple pipeline policies in the Caucasus.



## DR. DANIEL TWINING

DIRECTOR AND SENIOR FELLOW FOR ASIA, GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

Dr. Daniel Twining is Director and Senior Fellow for Asia at the German Marshall Fund of the United States, where he leads a 15-member team working on the rise of Asia and its implications for the West through a program of convening and research spanning East, Southeast, and South Asia. Initiatives of GMF's Asia program include the Stockholm China Forum, India Trilateral Forum, Trilateral Forum Tokyo, Japan Trilateral Forum, Southeast Asia Trilateral Forum, Young Strategists Forum, Transatlantic Pakistan Workshops, and occasional study tours to Asia, as well as major research initiatives on China, Japan, India, Southeast Asia, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and the impact of rising powers on the liberal order. He previously served as a member of the U.S. Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff responsible for South Asia and regional issues in East Asia (2007-2009); as the foreign policy advisor to U.S. Senator John McCain (2001-2004); and as a staff member of the U.S. Trade Representative (1997). Since leaving government, he has served as an associate of the U.S. National Intelligence Council, working on a range of projects related to global strategic futures and Asian security. He holds a B.A. with Highest Distinction from the University of Virginia and a doctorate in International Relations from Oxford University (Balliol College and Nuffield College), where he was the Fulbright/Oxford Scholar from 2004-2007. Dr. Twining has taught South Asian Security Studies at Georgetown University and for three years was an instructor to U.S. Army officers up to the rank of three-star general preparing for deployment to theaters in South and East Asia. He writes regular columns for Foreign Policy and Nikkei as well as occasional pieces for the Financial Times and Wall Street Journal; he is on the editorial board of the Asian Forum and writes lengthier articles for this and other journals as well as occasional book chapters, on topics including India, Asian security and U.S. foreign policy. Dr. Twining has lived in India, Colombia, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Benin, Cameroon, Burkina Faso and Thailand and is married to Ambassador Alexandra Hall of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



## MS. AZIZA UMAROVA

### REGIONAL ASSOCIATE, UNDP GLOBAL CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Ms. Aziza Umarova is a Regional Associate at the UNDP Global Center for Public Service Excellence in Singapore. Previously, she led the Governance Team at the UNDP Uzbekistan effectively designing and implementing their governance portfolio. As a strategist, sizing up situations and pulling together the best people, resources and solutions, she designed a new portfolio of projects, catalyzing national reforms for the public sector, regulatory quality and judiciary. She piloted functional reviews for improved efficiency in the public sector; “one-stop shops” for service provision; a galvanized open data ecosystem for greater transparency in the country; and launched a huge IT-driven court administration. Ms. Umarova holds a B.A. (1999) and M.A. (2005) in International Economics from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy and a M.A. in Security Studies in Central Asia and the Middle East from the School of International Relations at the University of St. Andrews, UK (2006). Her main interests include public sector reform, strategic foresight, synergy of Islam and democracy, good governance in Central Asia and innovation in the development sector.



## MS. MARIAM VALISHVILI

### DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENERGY OF GEORGIA

Ms. Mariam Valishvili is Deputy Minister of Energy of Georgia. Before her appointment at the Ministry of Energy, she served as the General Director of JSC "Sakhydroenergomsheni" (June 2008-October 2008), Energy Team Leader at Kala Energy & Natural Resources Ltd (March 2008-June 2008), and Commercial Director of the Georgia Oil and Gas Corporation (GOGC) (November 2007-March 2008). Her other experience includes positions as the Director for International Relations at GOGC, Energy Rehabilitation Project Coordinator for the Millennium Challenge Georgia Fund, Energy Policy Analyst and Training Coordinator for Core International, Inc. (USAID Contractor) and various roles at JSC "AES Telasi" (Power Distribution Company) to include North Region Director, South Region Project Manager, Deputy West Region Manager, and Deputy Sales Director. Ms. Valishvili received both her Master's Degree in Engineering Management (2000) and her Bachelor's Degree in Computer Sciences (1998) at Georgian Technical University.



## MR. ALEX VATANKA

SENIOR FELLOW, MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE

Mr. Alex Vatanka is a Senior Fellow at the Middle East Institute and at the Jamestown Foundation in Washington D.C. He specializes in Middle Eastern regional security affairs with a particular focus on Iran. From 2006 to 2010, he was the Managing Editor of Jane's Islamic Affairs Analyst. From 2001 to 2006, he was a senior political analyst at Jane's in London (UK) where he mainly covered the Middle East. Alex is also a Senior Fellow in Middle East Studies at the U.S. Air Force Special Operations School (USAFSOS) at Hurlburt Field and teaches as an Adjunct Professor at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. He has testified before the U.S. Congress and lectured widely for both governmental and commercial audiences, including the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, U.S. intelligence agencies, U.S. Congressional staff, and European and Middle Eastern energy firms. Born in Tehran, he holds a B.A. in Political Science (Sheffield University, UK), and an M.A. in International Relations (Essex University, UK), and is fluent in Farsi and Danish. He is the author of "Iran-Pakistan: Security, Diplomacy, and American Influence" (2015). He is presently working on his second book "The Making of Iranian Foreign Policy: Contested Ideology, Personal Rivalries and the Domestic Struggle to Define Iran's Place in the World."



## MR. WAHIDULLAH WAISSI

DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION,  
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Mr. Wahidullah Waissi is the Director-General for Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan. In this position, he oversees multilateral development and regional economic cooperation, and coordinates regional projects like TAPI and CASA1000. Since 2015, he has been engaged in the process of the New Silk Road and regional connectivity. Mr. Waissi is the initiator and chief negotiator for the Chabahar transit and transport corridor agreement among Afghanistan, Iran and India, and for the Lapis Lazuli transit and transport corridor connecting Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey. Previously, he served as a Senior Adviser to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Finance, as well as the Director and Formulation Manager of the Afghanistan's National Development Strategy and Millennium Development Goals. Mr. Waissi is a member of Afghanistan Policy Group focusing on conflict resolution through regional cooperation and a Co-founder and Chair of the Green Club. Mr. Waissi holds a M.A. in Development Economics from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts (2005).



## THE HONORABLE S. ENDERS WIMBUSH

PRINCIPAL, STRATEVARIOUS LLC

The Honorable S. Enders Wimbush is a Principal at StrateVarious LLC, and Distinguished Senior Fellow of The Jamestown Foundation. From 2011 -2012, he served as Senior Director, Foreign Policy and Civil Society, at the German Marshall Fund of the United States where he was responsible for GMF's offices in Warsaw, Berlin, Paris, Bucharest, Belgrade and Ankara, in addition to managing GMF's broad foreign policy portfolio in Washington, D.C. Before joining the German Marshall Fund, Mr. Wimbush served as Senior Vice President of the Hudson Institute, Washington, D.C. He spent many years in the private sector with Booz Allen Hamilton, Science Applications International Corporation and Runzheimer International directing analyses of future security environments for both government and corporate clients. Mr. Wimbush served as a member of the United States Broadcasting Board of Governors from 2010-2012, and from 1987-1993 as Director of Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany. Mr. Wimbush founded and directed the Society for Central Asian Studies in Oxford, England from 1980-1987. Before this, from 1976-1980, he served as analyst of Soviet affairs at the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, CA. Mr. Wimbush completed graduate work at the University of Chicago and, as a Fulbright Fellow, at Moscow State University. He is the author, co-author or editor of seven books and numerous articles in professional and popular media, as well as dozens of policy studies. His ideas have appeared frequently in professional, policy and popular media, including The Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Washington Times, Christian Science Monitor, Journal of Commerce, National Interest, Survival, Global Affairs, The Weekly Standard and others. In June 2003, Mr. Wimbush was awarded Georgia's Order of Honor by President Eduard Shevardnadze.

