



5th International Conference

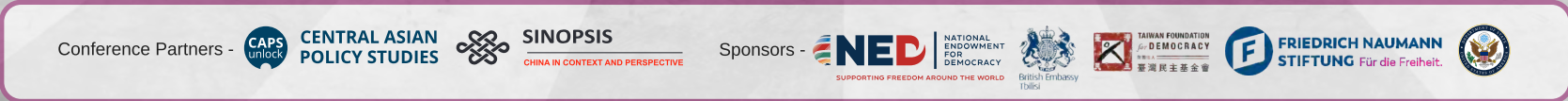
Strategic Confusion on the Great Power Chessboard

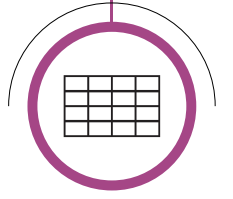


Pullman Tbilisi Axis Towers
Tbilisi, Georgia



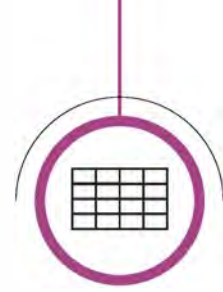
June 27-28, 2024
Tbilisi, Georgia





Day 1
June 27

9:00-10:00	Welcome Coffee/Registration
10:00-10:40	Welcome Remarks TINATIN KHIDASHELI - Chairperson, Civic IDEA, Georgia ALAN S. PURCELL - Acting head of mission, US Embassy Tbilisi Keynote CHRISTOPHER WALKER - Vice President, National Endowment for Democracy, USA
10:40-12:00	BEYOND THE BLUR: AND NAVIGATING THE AMBIGUITIES OF GLOBAL POLITICS <i>Panel Description:</i> Panel discussion will delve into the main drivers behind the revision of rules based international order, with a specific emphasis on the current state of international relations. This will entail an examination of pivotal events such as Russia's brutal war in Ukraine, the October attack on Israel, and China's heightened actions in the South China Sea. The aim of this discussion is to explore the complex nature of great power competition and to uncover potential strategies that democracies can employ to counter authoritarian states' coordinated efforts to reshape the international order. <i>Panel Speakers:</i> GLENN TIFFERT - Hoover Institution, USA LAURA LINDERMAN - Eurasia Center, Atlantic Council, USA LINCOLN MITCHELL - Columbia University, USA DAVID USUPASHVILI - Parliament of Georgia <i>Moderator – JAKUB KLEPAL</i> , Executive Director, Forum 2000 Foundation, Czech Republic
12:00-13:15	FINDING NICHE FOR SMALL STATES: STRATEGIES FOR PUNCHING ABOVE THEIR WEIGHT IN GLOBAL POLITICS <i>Panel Description:</i> Speakers will explore the unique positions and strategies small states can adopt. We seek to uncover how small nations navigate the complexities of international relations, leveraging their distinct characteristics for diplomatic, economic, and security advantages. Panelists will examine case studies of small states that have successfully carved out strategic roles for themselves. The conversation will also address the challenges small states face in maintaining sovereignty and making their voices heard on the global stage, proposing innovative solutions for these nations to enhance their international standing and contribute meaningfully to global governance. <i>Panel Speakers:</i> NINO JAPARIDZE - CEO, Global Analytics and Advisory Services, Georgia/USA MARTIN HALA - Sinopsis, Czech Republic LAURA HARTH - Safeguard Defenders, Belgium/Italy ARMEN GRIGORYAN - Centre for Policy Studies, Armenia ANTONINA LUSZCZYKIEWICZ - Jagiellonian University, Poland <i>Moderator – MELISSA CHAN</i> , Independent Journalist, Germany
13:15-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	CONSEQUENCES OF RUSSIA'S AGGRESSION IN UKRAINE: EXPLORING FUTURE SCENARIOS <i>Panel Description:</i> The consequences of the war in Ukraine will have far-reaching effects not only on the security architecture of Europe but also on the entire Eurasian region, including Russia itself. This panel aims to explore and define the potential future scenarios of the war in Ukraine and their implications for the post-Soviet space and Europe. Is Russia becoming a client state of the PRC? <i>Panel Speakers:</i> KERSTIN LUNDGREN - Parliament of Sweden TENGIZ PKHALADZE - GIPA, Georgia IVANNA KLYMPUSH-TSINTSADZE - Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine, Ukraine GIORGI SHAISHMELASHVILI - Civic IDEA, Georgia MEDET TYULEGENOV - University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan <i>Moderator – INESE VOIKA</i> , Co-chair, "Kustība Par!", Latvia
16:00-17:30	FROM DEMOCRACY TO AUTOCRACY: UNMASKING THE "FOREIGN AGENTS LAW" <i>Panel Description:</i> In light of the ongoing developments in Georgia concerning the "foreign agents law" (also known as the "Russian law"), this panel will provide a comprehensive analysis of its implications, as well as delve into the lifetime experiences of the speakers. The discussion will focus on how such legislation threatens democratic progress and alters foreign policy direction. Drawing on case studies from Georgia, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and Slovakia, experts will examine the broader regional and international consequences of these laws. They will delve into the motivations behind the legislation, its impact on civil society, and the shifts in foreign policy it precipitates. <i>Panel Speakers:</i> EMILBEK DZHURAEV - Soros Foundation, Kyrgyzstan ZSUZSA ANNA FERENCZY - National Dong Hwa University, Hungary/Taiwan TAMAR KHIDASHELI - Democracy Research Institute, Georgia MATEJ SIMALCIK - CEIAS, Slovakia MAXIM KRUPSKIY - Kennan Institute, USA (Online) IVANA STRADNER - Foundation for Defense of Democracies, USA (Online) <i>Moderator – ZAZA NAMORADZE</i> , Director, Open Society Justice Initiative's Berlin office, Georgia
17:30	End of the Day One



Day 2
June 28

9:30-10:00 **Welcome Coffee/Registration**

10:00-11:00 **NATO'S LANDMARK SUMMIT:
PERSPECTIVES FOR THE PARTNER STATES**

Panel Description:

A panel will focus on the upcoming 75th-anniversary summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to assess the potential for substantial progress toward Ukrainian membership and the alliance's ability to develop new mechanisms for collective defense. Particular emphasis will be placed on the cooperation of the partner states wider Black Sea.

This summit is especially significant because NATO is facing its first-ever conventional war on European soil since 1945. The decisions made at the summit will significantly impact the future of European security architecture and are likely to have widespread replication in other regions as well.

Panel Speakers:

- FEDERICA MANGIAMELI** - GLOBSEC, Slovakia
- AKIRA IGATA** - The University of Tokyo, Japan
- SIGITA STRUBERGA** - Latvian Transatlantic Organisation, Latvia
- TEONA AKUBARDIA** - Parliament of Georgia
- ARKADIUSZ LEGIEĆ** - NATO Liaison Office for the South Caucasus

Moderator – **KONSTANTIN EGGERT**, Commentator and Programme Host, DW (Deutsche Welle), Lithuania

11:00-12:00 **ONE YEAR INTO THE GEORGIA-PRC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP –
DISAPPOINTED HOPES OR ILLUSORY BENEFITS?**

Panel Description:

Following Georgia's former PM Gharibashvili's visit to the PRC and meeting with the Chinese leader Xi Jinping in July 2023, Sino-Georgian relations have been upgraded to a strategic partnership prioritizing the deepening bilateral relations across political, economic, cultural, and international dimensions. The goal of the panel is to reflect on the evolving dynamics of the Georgia-PRC Strategic Partnership as we mark its first year. Has this alliance lived up to expectations, or do lingering disappointments overshadow perceived benefits? Speakers will examine the nuances of this burgeoning relationship, dissecting its successes, challenges, and potential pitfalls. From geopolitical ramifications to economic implications, we will delve into the complexities shaping the trajectory of this partnership.

Panel Speakers:

- MAREIKE OHLBERG** - German Marshall Fund, Germany
- Viktor Kipiani** - Geocase, Georgia
- TINATIN KHIDASHELI** - Civic IDEA, Georgia
- REID STANDISH** - Radio Free Europe, Czech Republic
- GIORGI BUTIKASHVILI** – Ahali, Georgia

Speaking Moderator – **KATERINA PROCHAZKOVA**, Media Coordinator, Journalist, Sinopsis, Czech Republic

12:00-12:45 **EXPERT CONVERSATION**

Georgian Dream's latest decision on granting Anaklia Deep-Port Construction Project to a Chinese-Singaporean consortium not only shifts Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations but also raises significant security concerns. Our Expert Conversation aims at discussing challenges and opportunities of recent developments.

- LEA THOME** - KICUS, Wilson Center, USA
- TED JONAS** - Supervisory Board, Anaklia Development Consortium LLC, USA/Georgia

Moderator – **WILL NEAL**, Global Investigations Review, UK

12:45-14:00 **Lunch**

14:00-15:30 **Parallel Sessions**

**CRAFTING PROSPERITY:
ECONOMIC STRATEGIES FOR A
WORLD BEYOND AUTHORITARIAN
REACH – IS MIDDLE CORRIDOR
AN OPTION?**

Panel Description:

Due to the war in Ukraine, the connectivity patterns in Eurasia are changing rapidly. The Russian route that linked the European Union with China is now of limited use. The Middle Corridor (or Trans-Caspian International Transport Route, "TITR"), which stretches from the Black Sea to Central Asia via the South Caucasus, is the shortest route between western China and the EU. It serves as a strategic alternative to other routes, offering unique geopolitical and economic implications. The objective of this panel is to explore the multifaceted challenges and opportunities presented by the Middle Corridor for geopolitical stability, regional development, as well as international trade.

Panel Speakers:

- DALIBOR ROHAC** - American Enterprise Institute, Slovakia/USA
- TATYANA SEDOVA** - Director at Transparency Accountability Consulting, Kazakhstan
- MAHAMMAD MAMMADOV** - Research Fellow, Topchubashov Center, Azerbaijan
- SOSO BERIKASHVILI** - Research Lead, The University of Georgia, Georgia
- ROBERT BABAYAN** - Senior Lecturer, Armenian State University of Economics, Armenia

Moderator – **AIDA AIDARKULOVA**, Executive Director, CAPS Unlock, Kazakhstan

**THE ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT
OF FOREIGN INVESTMENTS &
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Panel Description:

The panel revolves around the environmental and social risks associated with investments in infrastructure projects, covering the South Caucasus and Central Asia (SC&CA) through BRI and similar initiatives. Discussants will delve into problems related to the lack of governments' environmental due diligence for the prevention of environmental and social damages (such as deforestation, toxification of local populations, and support for fossil fuels, etc.). They will also closely analyze the anti-corruption policies based on the practices of the developed democracies and debate about green smart solutions, further advocacy strategies and policy recommendations.

Panel Speakers:

- KHATUNA GOGALADZE** - Georgia's Environmental Outlook, Georgia
- VADIM NI** - Chairman of the Board of Trustees at "Socio-Ecological Fund," Kazakhstan
- SHOIRA OLIMOVA** - International Accountability Project, Tajikistan
- FARKHOD TOLIPOV** - of "Caravan of Knowledge," Uzbekistan
- ŁUKASZ GACEK** - Head of Department of China, Jagiellonian Univeristy, Poland

Moderator –

MARIA KOLESNIKOVA, "Move Green", Kyrgyzstan

15:30-16:10 **CONVERSATION WITH HEATHER A. CONLEY, PRESIDENT,
GERMAN MARSHALL FUND OF THE UNITED STATES**

Moderator – **NINO GELASHVILI**, Journalist, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Georgia

16:10 **End of the Conference**