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Uzbekistan in the context of Regional Security and Global Change

University of World Economy and Diplomacy
GCRF COMPASS Signature Conference
7-8 November 2019

COMPASS: Comprehensive Capacity-Building in the Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia: research integration, impact governance & sustainable communities (GCRF UKRI ES/P010849/1)



UK Research
and Innovation



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GCRF COMPASS *signature* conference
Miran International Hotel (Oval Room), Tashkent

CONCEPT: The position of Uzbekistan became a major factor in defining geopolitics of Central Asia after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Tashkent became a driver for stability and a strong supporter of national sovereignty and regional identity. It would not be an exaggeration to say that in 25 years of its independence, Uzbekistan succeeded in contributing towards further stabilization of the region, along with other regional actors, like Kazakhstan, with whom it works in partnership.

Uzbekistan also plays a crucial role in keeping radical Islamic ideology under control in the region. Tashkent took the main responsibility for developing this strategy, which, on the one hand, was criticized for its limited vision, but on the other, helped to keep a secular system of control and even to restore traditional religious practice after independence acquisition.

This progress was important, and helped to resist threats to security in the region. Under the new leadership, Uzbekistan is now set to play a key role in further reconnecting the region with the world. To achieve this a new approach is needed, which the current conference is going to address.

The conference will discuss the importance and directions for the continuing transformation of Uzbekistan. National reforms have made the country more open, effective and competitive on the international level. Uzbekistan's efforts to advance moderate Islam and its modern understanding send an important message to the region, which extends far beyond its current borders. In turn, foreign policy initiatives of Tashkent made possible to develop new regionalism in Central Asia which is capable to transform the region with important implications for all Eurasia. It is important that Tashkent took the lead in returning Afghanistan into a fold of Central Asia. Furthermore, Tashkent makes serious efforts to organize peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban that in itself is a very difficult task. Despite it, the initiative of the Uzbek leaders marks the formation of a new environment in which the states of Central Asia actively seek to support and promote stabilization of Afghanistan.

All this makes a big impact on the interests and purposes of the international community. The prospect of the formation of Central Asia as the prospering center of overland trade has a key value for the future of Afghanistan and the adjacent states of Southern Asia and the Middle East. In a long term, construction of an open and trustworthy region of secular and responsible states at heart of the Eurasian continent would be of benefit to international peace-building effort. This will show both commitment to traditions of modern and peaceful Islam, but also open it to the world and fruitful relations with the international community.

The following themes and issues will be considered at the conference:

- Serious reconsideration of the Central Asian policy of Tashkent, the new atmosphere and dynamics that prevailed concerning Uzbekistan with the closest neighbors;
- Impact of this constructive process not only on strengthening of regional security and development, but also on all architecture of the international security;
- deepening of reforms in Uzbekistan and its reflection on the nature of the international relations in Central Asia, impact on stability and safety of Greater of Eurasia;
- The relation of trust and mutual respect at the solution of common regional problems that characterizes historically developed relationship between the countries and the people of Central Asia;
- Interest of global community in the discovered and globally more integrated Uzbekistan;
- Soft, steadier interaction of great powers, the world centers of force with Uzbekistan – the best way to positive results, which the region needs;
- Promotion of large-scale international infrastructure projects in Central and South Asia which generate new opportunities, and respectively, interests, establishing a certain framework – first of all, political stability and safety.

This international conference will contribute towards developing a constructive international agenda inclusive of Uzbekistan's national interests, and regional concerns. It is vitally important to trace this interrelation of a new strategic situation in Central Asia and its influence on the international processes, having defined its further prospects, opportunities and risks.

The GCRF COMPASS project (ES/P010849/1, 2017-21) is an ambitious UK government capacity-building funding initiative, aiming to extend UK research globally, to address the challenges of growth and sustainability in the developing countries. Notably, the COMPASS project at the University of Kent, together with Cambridge University as research partner, seeks to establish '**the hubs of excellence**' at the top-level HEIs in Belarus, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, to enable them to become the centres for knowledge sharing and transfer for **research integration, impact governance, and sustainable communities**.

PROGRAMME

Uzbekistan in the context of Regional Security and Global Change

UWED GCRF COMPASS *Signature* Conference 7-8 November 2019

Miran International Hotel (Oval Room), Tashkent

DAY 1 THURSDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2019

08:30-09:00 Registration and coffee

09:00-09:30 Welcome Remarks

Rector Abdujabar Abduvakhitov, University of World Economy and Diplomacy
Deputy Minister Dilshod Akhatov, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan
HE Ambassador Torlot, British Ambassador to Uzbekistan
Elena Korosteleva, University of Kent, Principal Investigator, GCRF COMPASS project
Siddharth Saxena, University of Cambridge, Co-investigator, GCRF COMPASS project

09:30 - 11.10 Panel I: Reforms in Uzbekistan: Opportunities and Risks

Moderator: Sherzod Abdullaev (University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan)
Mir-Akbar Rakhmankulov (Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan / Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan)
Siddharth Saxena (University of Cambridge, UK)
Ambassador Bakhtiyor Islamov (Tashkent Branch of Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Uzbekistan)
Nick Megoran (Newcastle University, UK)
Bakhodur Eshonov (Independent researcher, Uzbekistan)

11.10 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 13.30 Panel II: Uzbekistan and its role in regional security and development of Central Asia

Moderator: Ulugbek Khasanov (University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan)
Matteo Fumagalli (University of St Andrews, UK)
Irina Zvyagelskaya (Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Federation)
Munira Shahidi (Tajik National University, Tajikistan)
Victor Shadurski (Belarusian State University, Belarus)
Zhao Huasheng (Fudan University, China)
Davood Moradian (Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, Afghanistan)

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch break

14.30 - 16.10 Panel III: Uzbekistan and its role in wider Eurasia

Moderator: Siddharth Saxena (University of Cambridge, UK)

Jacob L. Shapiro (Geopolitical Futures, USA)

Haroun Mir (Center for Research and Policy Studies, Afghanistan)

Irene Martinez Fernandez (Institute for Statecraft, UK)

Ambassador Doniyor Kurbanov (Center for Analysis and Forecasting, Uzbekistan)

Anar Valiyev (ADA University, Azerbaijan)

16.10 – 16.30 Coffee break

16.30 – 17.30 Keynote speech: Professor Roy Allison (University of Oxford, UK)

19.00 Reception

DAY 2 FRIDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2019

09.00-11.00 Panel IV: EU new strategy towards Central Asia and Uzbekistan

Moderator: Akram Umarov (University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan)

HE Ambassador Stiprais (Head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan)

Feruza Makhmudova (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan)

Fabienne Bossuyt (Ghent University, Belgium)

Elena Korosteleva (University of Kent, UK)

Rustam Makhmudov (Independent researcher, Uzbekistan)

11.00 -11.15 Coffee break

11.15 - 12.15 Early Career Researchers on the Central Eurasian Region and its challenges

Moderator: Nargis Muminova (University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan)

Irina Petrova (University of Kent, UK)

Nilufar Rakhmatullaeva (University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan)

Diana T. Kudaibergenova (University of Cambridge, UK)

Matlyuba Salikhova (Tajik National University, Tajikistan)

Temur Islamov (University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan)

12.15 - 13.00 Keynote speech: Professor Andrew Kuchins (American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, USA)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 16.00 Plenary Session

Moderator: Elena Korosteleva (University of Kent, UK)

Lord Robin Teverson (House of Lords COMPASS AB member, UK)

Andrew Kuchins (American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, USA)

Roy Allison (University of Oxford, UK)

Sherzod Abdullaev (University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan)

Irina Zvyagelskaya (Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Federation)

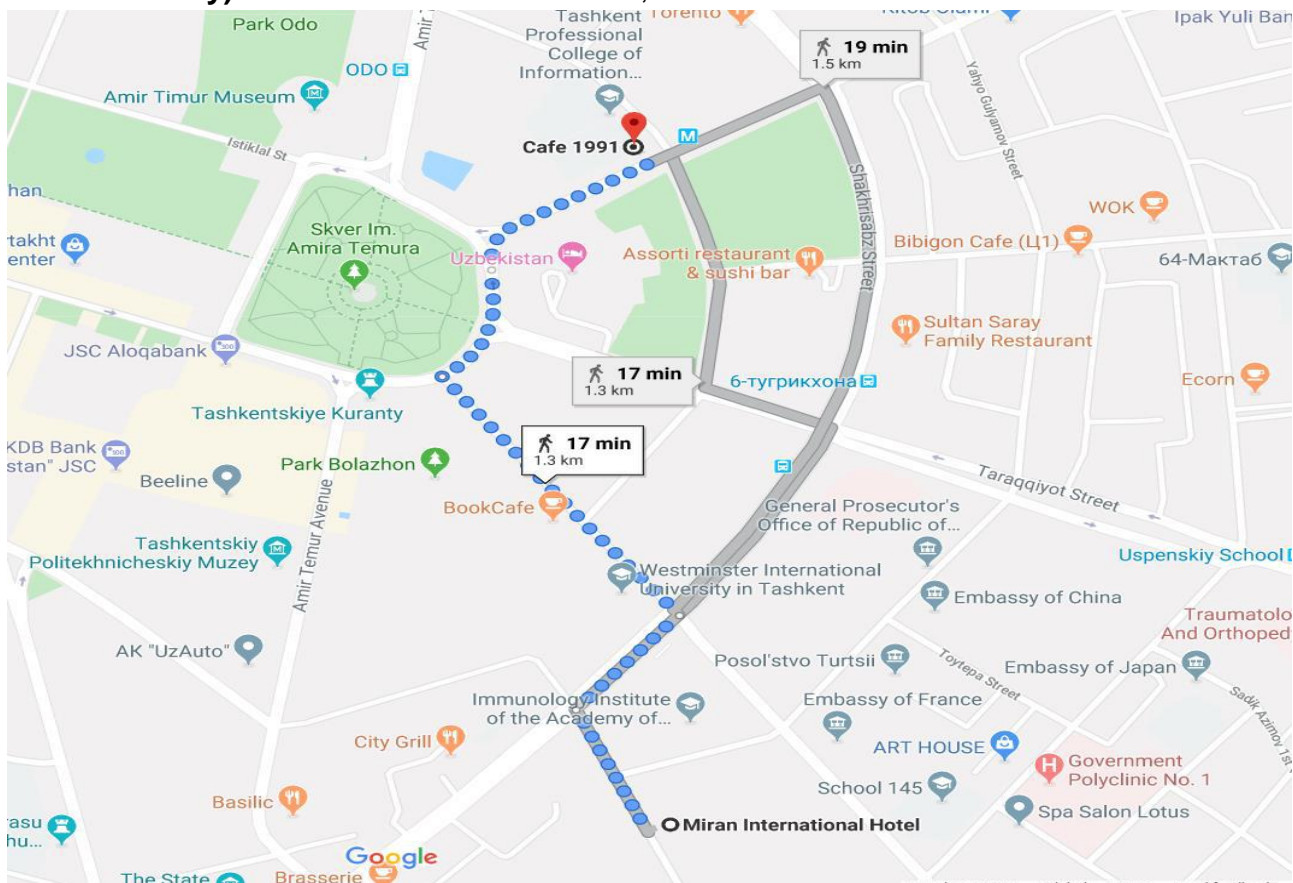
**18.00 – 20.00 Farewell dinner – Restaurant “Café 1991” (by invitation only)
Address: Mustakillik avenue, 7**

LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

The Conference will take place at the Miran International Hotel, 4 Shakhrisabz Street, Tashkent. All panels will be held at this location.



The **farewell dinner** on 8 November will take place at Restaurant “Café 1991” (**by invitation only**) Address: Mustakillik avenue, 7



ABSTRACTS

Panel I: Reforms in Uzbekistan: Opportunities and Risks

Mir-Akbar Rakhmankulov (Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan / Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan, Uzbekistan) – “Opportunities and challenges of current reforms in Uzbekistan”

The speech discusses political and legal problems, opportunities and risks associated with the deepening of socio-economic, political and legal reforms carried out in Uzbekistan. The successful implementation of democratic reforms in the Republic is an important factor in the development of regional cooperation and ensuring security in Central Asia

Siddharth Saxena (University of Cambridge, UK) – “Uzbek Reform Agenda and Creation of Central Asia Regional Realm”

President Mirziyoev’s speech at the UN general assembly in 2017 offered a window into his vision for a comprehensive sustainability platform for Uzbekistan and the region. He disclosed a well-designed framework of proposal for institutional development to deploy international experience which is relevant locally but is complimentary to the global collective needs. Having set the stage by emphasis on developments in the country went on the paint a picture for a new Central Asia cooperative sphere, at the heart of which Uzbekistan is positioned. The issues which had seemed as perennial thorns and completely intractable are beginning to get resolved at a high pace.

Taking the issue of Afghanistan into account, world community is not fully aware of Uzbekistan’s effort in both directly helping its beleaguered neighbor with crucial power supplies and rail-transport networks, as well as, being part of international initiatives to stabilise the country as a whole. This vision and ongoing moves towards for a functioning Central Asian cooperation paradigm is a real game changer in the post-soviet space, as it is underpinned by what is happening rather than what is declared to happen.

Ambassador Bakhtiyor Islamov (Tashkent Branch of Plekhanov Russian University of Economics, Uzbekistan) – “About the new investment and business climate in Uzbekistan”

Over the past 3 years, Uzbekistan has implemented radical reforms to improve the institutional foundations of doing business and attracting investment. The liberalization of monetary policy has become a fundamental step in improving the investment climate in the country as a whole. Uzbekistan has risen 18 positions in the Doing business ranking of the World Bank over this period and is among the top 20 countries that have shown the greatest progress in improving the business climate. At the same time, there are still large reserves to increase the investment and business attractiveness of the country and companies to turn the investment flow into a powerful driver of sustainable development.

Nick Megoran (Newcastle University, UK) – “Opportunities for regional security enhancement”

Recent political changes in Uzbekistan have led to the potential for increased and enhanced mutually beneficial regional security cooperation. This could enable Uzbekistan to play a positive role in bolstering security and development in Uzbekistan’s neighbours. Based on field research, this argument is explored with reference to Uzbekistan- Kyrgyzstan relations.

Bakhodur Eshonov (Independent researcher, Uzbekistan) – “Central Asia: Looking for new drivers of growth”

By mid 2010s all the countries of Central Asia could exceed their pre-transition level of GDP. Though exploiting different strategies, all could accelerate their growth and strengthen fiscal space. Strong economic growth was largely behind the improvements of many of human development indicators. Ultimately hydrocarbons served as the major driver of growth so far, even for those countries, which were not considered as resource rich. The latter explains the fact that structural changes and employment generation were lagging behind the growth, which remained highly volatile and unsustainable. Balancing

through the evolving geopolitical dynamics the Central Asian countries have been trying to find solutions for two quite pragmatic questions that will ultimately determine their long-term future: (i) access to technology; (ii) access to markets. Up to now however, neither Central Asia was able to identify new drivers for growth, nor its potential partners were ready to do so in the way securing the quality of growth. All these make the future of the region rather blurry and hardly predictable both in terms of economic growth and structural changes, and in terms of peace and security.

Panel II: Uzbekistan and its role in regional security and development of Central Asia

Matteo Fumagalli (University of St Andrews, UK) – “*The role of Uzbekistan in wider Eurasia*”

The paper takes stock of the changes in Uzbekistan’s foreign policy by focusing on the shift from bilateralism to multilateralism in the country’s international affairs and the different approach to order-making in the wider Eurasian region. As it reviews new initiatives (Afghanistan, Turkic Council) and new approaches to old relationships (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, relations with Russia and China), the paper claims that one of the most noticeable shifts lies in Tashkent’s move from its previous relative isolation to a more engaged approach to order-making in the region. The paper also highlights some sticking points in Uzbekistan’s regional and international relations and examines some of the choices the country’s leadership will have to make in the near future. Order is what states make of it, and what Uzbekistan gets out these new initiatives depends on how much the country is willing to contribute.

Irina Zvyagelskaya (Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Federation, Russian Federation) – “*The role of Uzbekistan in containing challenges and threats*”

The challenges to regional security in Central Asia are shaped by both external and internal factors. As many researchers believe, global contradictions are not projected onto Central Asia, unlike other regions. Neither Russia, the United States, nor Europe, nor China, despite the diverging interests that they have in the region, are rivals here who are interested in mobilizing local states and using them in competition. External threats arise mainly at the horizontal level - the effect of the effects of civil wars and conflicts in Afghanistan and the Middle East; terrorism and extremism; drug trafficking, arms smuggling. If external threats in their contents have not practically changed (apart from the changing level of their intensity), then in terms of internal threats there is a fairly significant dynamics. We are talking about the challenges associated with the regional situation and the features of the formation of national statehood. Uzbekistan in this context gives an example of how negotiations can lead to the solution of issues that have complicated the interaction of Central Asian states for many years and to overcome the accumulated suspicion for years. Ensuring political stability and dynamic socio-economic development is the most important strategy of the leadership of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan has demonstrated a painless transit of power and the availability of public support for the necessary reforms.

Munira Shahidi (TNU, Tajikistan) – “*Personal contacts in Cultural Diplomacy in Central*”

In compare with institutional development of CD in Europe, personal contacts have always played a central role in CA. This nowadays tradition goes back in its roots to rethinking Avicennian heritage in CA of 20th c., as common. But from 50th-60th Avicennian studies linked all diversity of academic schools in CA, Russia and Europe, from one hand, and CA, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, India and China, from other. This presentation will highlight a number of projects of the Z.Shahidi International Foundation for Culture. One of them, started in 2001 and, financed by Swiss Cooperation Offices (SCOs) in Dushanbe, has been targeted by publication of the j. Fonus, as a common platform for research integration in the region and beyond. These presentations would be not possible without support of my friends and colleagues in Uzbekistan and other countries of CA and beyond.

Victor Shadurski (BSU, Belarus) – “*Belarusian-Uzbek relations: Achievements and perspectives*”

The presented study provides a brief description of the relations between two independent states – Belarus and Uzbekistan. Despite their geographical remoteness, both states have a great potential for

mutually beneficial cooperation. The starting point for enhancing relations between the two post-Soviet countries was the election of Shavkat Mirziyoyev as the head of Uzbekistan in December 2016. The new head of the largest Central Asian country appreciated the achievements of Belarus in industry and agriculture, seeing in them ample opportunities for expansion of contacts. During the visit of Aliaksandr Lukashenko to Tashkent, in September 2018, and the Uzbek leader's return visit to Minsk in July–August 2019, specific outlines of the directions and forms of bilateral cooperation were obtained. Based on the analysis of high-level and summit level negotiations, scientific publications, and expert assessments, the author identifies four possible dimensions of large-scale cooperation between the two countries: determining the partner country as a reference point in the region; directing joint efforts of the two countries in creating more favourable external (international) conditions for small and medium-sized states; encouraging human contacts, especially between the youth of two countries; and the exchange of experience in creating an effective model of a transition society. According to the researcher, one of the main conditions for the successful implementation of these areas is friendship between the leaders of two countries. In conclusion, the role of the expert community in sustaining the high dynamics of Belarusian-Uzbek relations is emphasized.

Zhao Huasheng (Fudan University, China) – “Uzbekistan’s Specific Role in the Afghan Issue”

Uzbekistan is a neighbour of Afghanistan. Although the common border between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan is not very long, only 144 kilometers, it has a great impact on the security of Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan, which has a deep understanding of Afghanistan, has always advocated political negotiations and national reconciliation in Afghanistan, believing that military means cannot solve the Afghan problem. Since President Mirziyoyev took office in 2016, there have been significant adjustments in Uzbekistan's internal and foreign affairs. Uzbekistan has a broader vision of diplomacy, more balanced relations with great powers, and more friendly relations with neighboring countries. Its diplomatic goals are more pragmatic and its style is more active and flexible. At the same time, Uzbekistan intends to play a bigger role in regional and international security affairs, The Afghanistan issue included. This paper will draw comparisons with China, the USA and Russia regarding the Afghanistan issue. Uzbekistan is likely to play a bigger role in the face of a possible U.S. withdrawal and new conditions in Afghanistan. In addition, Uzbekistan can play an important role in Afghanistan's domestic economic reconstruction, in regional economic cooperation between Afghanistan and Central Asia, and transportation links between Afghanistan and Central and Western Asia.

Davood Moradian (Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies, Afghanistan) – “The Dawn of New Khorasan: Cultural Heritage and Regional Connection”

The regions of West, Central and South Asia are confronted with shared & common challenges in multiple fronts and sectors. They are struggling to find their ways and voices amid return of big power politics into their space, alongside their own national and regional competitions and problems. These three distinctive regions once constituted in a broader term the Eastern wing of the Islamic World, Khorasan, Historic Khorasan used to be the land of trade, tolerance, science and connectivity, manifested by great historic cities of Bokhara, Herat, Isfahan, Baghdad, Lahore and Delhi. The new century presents credible opportunities for recreating a modern version of Khorasan, based on sovereign nation-states but with greater connectivity and collaboration. In this paper, the author highlights a number of areas that can enhance regional connectivity and cooperation, aligning our glorious past with present imperatives.

Panel III: Uzbekistan and its role in wider Eurasia

Jacob L. Shapiro (Geopolitical Futures, USA) – “Uzbekistan as a Regional Power: Opportunities and Challenges”

Central Asia is the pivot of Eurasia and Uzbekistan is the pivot of Central Asia. The decline of Russian power and the instability of U.S. foreign policy has combined with the expansion of Chinese, Indian, Turkish, and Iranian geostrategic ambitions to offer both new possibilities and dangerous challenges to

Central Asian states. How Uzbekistan in particular takes advantage of and copes with these opportunities and dangers will play a major role in defining the future of Central Asia in the next decade. Eurasian countries and non-Eurasian countries alike want to capitalize on Uzbekistan's potential areas like connectivity, oil/gas resources, and regional leadership. Uzbekistan's primary geopolitical challenges meanwhile are related to issues not fully or always in Uzbekistan's control, like access to global markets, Islamism, and water- scarcity. As a result, Eurasian interests and Uzbekistani needs converge in some areas and diverge in others. The convergences offer tremendous opportunities for prosperity and peace or Uzbekistan and Central Asia in general. The divergences are serious enough that, if mishandled, could stall if not upend Uzbekistan's fragile and evolving political and economic transformation under the administration of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, which would have deleterious consequences not just for Uzbekistan, but for the entire Eurasian region.

Haroun Mir (Center for Research and Policy Studies, Afghanistan) – “*An Outlook for a Just and Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan*”

The uttermost desire of Afghans is a just and sustainable peace, which has remained a distant dream during the past four decades. The collapse of the Taliban regime in 2001 and start of the new democratic process, which began in 2001 in Germany known as the “Bonn Process,” led to a renewed hope and opportunity for Afghanistan to re-emerge from ashes of the civil war and reintegrate into the world community. However, in addition to resurgence of the Taliban, the ongoing political crisis has seriously undermined the process of state building in Afghanistan. The initiative to reach out to the Taliban goes back to the re-election of President Karzai in 2009, and despite many efforts and dedication of resources, little or no progress towards peace has been achieved. Meanwhile, President Ghani made the peace process his main priority and he linked it with his efforts of rapprochement with Pakistan. In his first days of his presidency, he travelled to the right capitals such as Beijing and Riyadh in order to increase pressure over Pakistan's willingness to cooperate with him. In fact, there are two components to the peace initiative in Afghanistan: One is indeed dialogue with the insurgents who have legitimate grievances, and the second is settlement of historic differences with Pakistan. The Taliban have categorically refused the National Unity Government's peace offer, also President Ghani's concessions to Pakistan were not reciprocated by the opposite side, which created a strong political backlash in the country. In the context of the current negotiation efforts from the US administration and also political transition to the next elected Afghan president, the peace process will become a priority and central agenda for the next Afghan President and thus the government. In addition, to intra-Afghan dialogue between the Afghan government and the Taliban, regional consensus among Afghanistan's neighbours and key regional powers is necessary. Therefore, the next Afghan government in partnership with its key international partners must develop a comprehensive peace strategy that encompasses all major internal and regional factors.

Irene Martínez Fernandez (Institute for Statecraft, UK) – “*Interconnectivity in Central Asia: the role of Uzbekistan*”

Interconnectivity has been one of the central topics in the agenda in the last years. In Central Asia the talks have moved forward with projects starting to be implemented, the BRI and other regional initiatives are in the spotlight for receiving the support of the states as well as the private sector. A sustainable, comprehensive and rules-based framework is key to achieving real inclusive development. So in this context, what is the position of Uzbekistan as a regional actor? What are the main challenges behind these bright initiatives? What are the steps forward for Uzbekistan to become a catalyzer for interconnectivity?

Anar Valiyev (ADA University, Azerbaijan) – “*Azerbaijan as a transportation hub in Caucasus: How Can Uzbekistan Benefit from that?*”

The current memo will discuss the opportunities for Central Asia and Uzbekistan in particular in using the transport and other potentials of Azerbaijan. The memo will discuss about the North-South and East-West corridors as well as Azerbaijan's current projects. The memo will discuss the future implications for Azerbaijan-Uzbekistan relations and mutual interests.

Doniyor Kurbanov (Center for Analysis and Forecasting, Uzbekistan) – “*Uzbekistan's new regional policy: implications for international cooperation in wider Eurasia*”

Due to a new regional policy of Uzbekistan regional rapprochement processes has been launched in Central Asia. Taking into account the intersection of competing interests of leading global and regional powers, sustainable development of regional cooperation in Central Asia is possible only on the basis of open regionalism, and interaction within the framework of existing mechanisms and institutions of international cooperation in the region. Central Asia is a key geopolitical and geoeconomic region in wider Eurasia. Opening of Uzbekistan, its new regional policy and its strategic partnerships with Russia, China and the West is a major factor of the Eurasian connectivity development.

Keynote presentation

Professor Roy Allison (University of Oxford, UK) – “Challenges and Prospects for Central Asian Regionalism”

There is renewed interest in Central Asian regionalism. However, the current emphasis is on inter-governmental consultations rather than the creation of formal institutions. This partly reflects past difficulties in sustaining regional structures in Central Asia without the involvement of major powers, especially Russia. This presentation invites the audience first to consider some broad challenges for creating regional institutions in Central Asia and other world regions, which have been identified by scholars. Secondly, it reviews the record of attempts to establish regional structures in Central Asia which include only the five Central Asian states in the 1990s and 2000s. Thirdly, it reflects on the contemporary role of those macro-regional organisations which include some Central Asian states, especially the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). It is argued that these bodies will endure, but their functions are weakened by wider political processes and international currents. The EEU in particular is not working effectively. This leaves scope for regional collaboration among the five Central Asia states and it also remains important to build on successful efforts to overcome frictions in bilateral relations.

Panel IV: EU new strategy towards Central Asia and Uzbekistan

HE Ambassador Stiprais (Head of EU Delegation) – “The European Union and Central Asia: New opportunities for a stronger partnership”

The European Union is outlining its vision for a renewed partnership with Central Asia, updating its strategy on relations with the region first set out in 2007. The new Joint Communication adopted by the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy sets out a fresh vision for a stronger partnership with the five countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan; the Kyrgyz Republic; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; and Uzbekistan. It comes at a key moment of fast-developing Euro-Asian connectivity, reform and opening up in some of the countries of the region, and new momentum for regional cooperation.

Feruza Makhmudova (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan) – “Cooperation of Uzbekistan with the European Union”

Uzbekistan attaches great importance to the development of mutually beneficial cooperation with the EU and European states. The key areas of cooperation with European countries are development of trade, investment and financial cooperation, transfer of high technologies, partnership in science, education, ecology, health and culture, as well as strengthening of regional security. At the same time, special attention will be paid to the promotion of a higher level of bilateral relations with the leading states of Europe, in particular Germany, France, Great Britain, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Latvia and other countries.

Fabienne Bossuyt (Ghent University, Belgium) – “The European Union’s New Strategy for Central Asia: A Game Changer or More of the Same?”

Although the European Union's engagement with Central Asia has remained limited, the EU's role in the region has evolved from an invisible and arguably ineffective donor to that of a full-fledged actor over the past fifteen years. Nevertheless, the EU still punches below its weight in the region. Because the EU's strategy for Central Asia, developed in 2007, became increasingly outdated and subject to criticism from a wide range of stakeholders, a new strategy was launched in May 2019. In this speech, Fabienne Bossuyt provides an early assessment of this new strategy. She will evaluate whether the new strategy can enable the EU to optimize its role as an external actor in Central Asia and ensure that the EU's involvement in the region produces tangible and lasting results, effectively contributing to the sustainable development of the region.

Elena Korosteleva (University of Kent, UK) – “Partnership for Resilience: another buzzword or a new opportunity for more tailored engagement?”

Resilience seems to have become ‘the everyday’ covering almost all aspects of our daily lives, and pervading the policy agenda of major international institutions. It was propelled to political prominence in 2016 by the EU's Global Security Strategy and became a defining leitmotif for the EU's revised Strategy towards Central Asia. What kind of promise does this ‘partnership for resilience’ carry for the region? If understood in self-governing terms (as it should be), is it likely to make the EU and other actors' relations with the region more sustainable and effective? This paper will explore the new opportunities but also challenges of the new partnership-building, drawing on the insights of the forthcoming Special Issue ‘The EU and Resilience-thinking in times of change: reshaping the agenda’ (Contemporary Security Policy, 2020, under the COMPASS project).

Rustam Makhmudov (Independent researcher, Uzbekistan) – “The prospects for EU-Central Asian cooperation amid the ongoing technological revolution”

The new EU strategy on Central Asia, if successfully implemented, can give new impetus to European-Central Asian relations. However, for a qualitative change of the trade, economic, scientific, educational and environmental interactions, the European Union may concentrate more of its attention on cooperation in the transition to a new innovation-based economy. Most of ecologic, demographic, mineral resource and water supply challenges the region is facing now cannot be solved on the basis of earlier generation technologies. Given the fact that the advanced Eurasian economies keep accelerating the transition to a new technological revolution, which will change industrial production and consumption patterns, global trade structure, the distribution of the world's wealth, and the knowledge generation models, Central Asia with its less favourable starting positions risks not fitting into this process on time that in turn may affect the quality of European-Central Asian cooperation.

Early Career Researchers on the Central Eurasian Region and its challenges

Nilufar Rakhmatullaeva (University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan) – India's engagement in Eurasia: opportunities and challenges for the Central Asian region

In recent years, India has been seeking to focus on strengthening connectivity projects in Eurasia, as it allows boosting trade between the parts of the Middle East, Central Asia and the Indian subcontinent. In this regard, India considers integrated and cooperative Central Asia as a vital bead in achieving its goal of “connecting” with Eurasia. Moreover, stepping-up engagement with Central Asia may enable India to secure its role in the *Asian Century*, as India itself perceives it. While Indian lively foreign policy towards Central Asia undoubtedly offers several mutually beneficial opportunities, it would be reasonable as well to consider it within the broader context to the subject of potential challenges that may arise.

Diana T. Kudaibergenova (University of Cambridge, UK) – “Finding what was forgotten. Central Asian regionalism and subjectivity in times of nationalism and globalisation”

In this paper, I analyse how Central Asia is perceived from the local perspective, what unites and disintegrates people beyond a simple understanding of borders and what borders imply - independent statehoods. Where can Central Asia regain its own subjectivity after the collapse of the Soviet Union but with an ongoing and perceived instability on its margins - in Afghanistan? What are the ways in which centuries long cultural links, shared history and languages re-unite and re-imagine the region again?

Irina Petrova (University of Kent, UK) – “The European Union’s evolving approach towards governance in the Central Eurasian region”

The European Union’s foreign policy revision in 2015-2016 resulted in an important change in its governance strategy in its eastern neighbourhood region. Drawing on the complexity theory, I reflect on the major assumptions behind this change and outline its practical implications. Specifically, I pinpoint the turn towards resilience, local ownership and the ‘whole-society’ approach and discuss how these principles have been instrumentalized in the EU’s foreign policy towards the region of the Central Eurasia. Drawing on official documents and interviews with the EU foreign policy makers, the presentation will analyse the self-assessment of the new approach by the EU officials. It will then provide an analytical reflection on the application of the principles of resilience, local ownership the ‘whole-society’ approach in practice.

Temur Islamov (University of World Economy and Diplomacy, Uzbekistan) – “Afghanistan as a challenge and opportunity for regional and international security”

1. In a modern world, Afghanistan unfortunately is perceived mainly as a threat and challenge to the regional, European and global security. Official Tashkent takes a different approach to this problem. For Uzbekistan, Afghanistan is considered as a field for finding a common language and common interests, when this distressful country can become a place for finding a compromise and mutual understanding between different powers. Uzbekistan’s interest in secure Afghanistan organically arises from the goal of strategic stability, sustainable development and good neighbourhood relationships in Central Asia.
2. Tashkent has always searched for common motives and interests in the complex peripeteias of peace settlement in Afghanistan, never played a zero sum game, and followed strictly defined pragmatism considering the national and regional security. Uzbekistan has tried to support the strengthening of the multilateral dialogue in the format of 6+2 since 90s. Today however, the environment changed dramatically and the afghan processes now attract the global attention. But the common goal stays the same: it is important to establish an inclusive dialogue which considers the interests of all-level afghan community. Within this context, perceiving Afghanistan as some sort frontier or just a corridor where the external interests confront with each other is a fundamental mistake, which prevents the inclusion of local interests and aspirations in the equation.
3. How realistic is the intra-afghan dialogue, while there are deep contradictions between different powers on the background in IRA? Anthropologically and historically, Central Asian society, including the afghan, has a unique experience of conducting informal dialogue between different segments of society. Aggravated by external interference, the conflict which is lasting for almost 40 years, has led to deep mistrust between various forces. However, historical experience suggests that if these forces will be helped to get together and start the dialogue without the agenda imposed from outside and without pressure to achieve immediate results, they can have a conversation on equal terms.
4. Diplomacy of Uzbekistan has a unique and rich history, including in an art of negotiations and peace making. Experience of Uzbekistan in this matter can, and does make a great contribution to the resolution of international conflicts, such as the Afghan one, as well as to the analysis of international conflict studies as a science.

Matlyuba Salikhova (TNU, Tajikistan) - ‘Integration of youth through public sector and international organisations’

About 70% of Tajikistan's population is consist of young people. Young people are the driving force of every state. The report will address the integration of young people in Tajikistan through public organizations and international organizations on the example of the “Peshraft” Public Organization, which operates in the city of Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The active participation of young people in the public life of the country should become a targeted policy of the state. In order to develop more concrete and targeted actions, it is necessary to develop a concept of youth participation, educational programs and projects to improve the access of young people to public integration, discussions and decision-making. This is, what Peshraft has been doing for 8 years. Having a great experience of partnership with local and international organizations such as the State Committee on Youth and Sport under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the public organization "Association of Youth Organizations of Tajikistan" - AYOT, International Foundation Ziyodullo Shahidi, British Embassy in the Republic of Tajikistan, Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan in the UK, United Nations Development Programme, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, MDO "Alif Sarmoya", CJSC "Faroz", Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tatarstan and directly the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan, It is also worth mentioning that within the framework of the COMPASS project, the activists of our organization were able to make new discoveries and were given an opportunity to cooperate with the world's leading universities and conduct integration studies in the future, which in turn will contribute to the sustainable development of youth communities. In this regard, as mentioned above about the percentage of young people, which is about 70% in the structure of the entire population of the country, the activation of their role in the life of the country is an urgent and urgent task.

Keynote presentation

Professor Andrew Kuchins (American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, USA) ***“U.S. Policy towards Uzbekistan and Central Asia”***

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, US Policy towards Central Asian states has clearly evolved through two stages and appears now to be moving to a third stage. The first stage, from 1991-2001, Washington focused primarily on efforts to promote the sovereignty of the new states and their efforts at political and economic reform. Beginning with 9/11 attack on the U.S. homeland, the first directly on the continental 48 states since the War of 1812 with Great Britain, the first priority of the policy shifted to what these states could do to support U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan. Since the leadership transition in Uzbekistan in 2016 and the Trump Administration's desire to withdraw from Afghanistan, the policy is shifting again, but it is not entirely clear to what.

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

(in order of appearance)



Abdujabar Abduvakhitov, Rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy

Dr Abdujabar Abduvakhitov is the adviser of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on youth, science, education, public health and sports. At the same time, he was appointed a rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) in 2018. Prior to that, he held the post of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, rector of Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and rector of Westminster International University in Tashkent. He is a leading expert on Islam, problems of international terrorism and extremism. He was a visiting scholar at the Carnegie Endowment, University of Maryland and Columbia University, other well-known research institutions. He has published extensively in Uzbekistan, Russia, the United States, etc.



Dilshod Akhatov, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Prior to the current position he worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Head of the Department for Europe and NATO, Head of the Department for UN and International Organizations, Director-General for bilateral cooperation. Was Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan to Germany (also responsible for Switzerland, Czech Republic, Sweden and Spain) in 2010-2013. Graduated from the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Tashkent, Uzbekistan) and Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO-University).



HE Ambassador Torlot, Her Majesty's British Ambassador to Uzbekistan

Tim Torlot has been the British Ambassador to Uzbekistan since August 2019. Tim joined the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1981 and has held a number of diplomatic appointments, especially in the Middle East and Latin America. Most recently, he served as British Ambassador to Yemen (2007-10) and as the Head of the European Union Delegation in Bolivia (2012-16).



Professor Elena Korosteleva, University of Kent, Principal Investigator GCRF COMPASS project

Elena Korosteleva is Professor of International Politics and Jean Monnet Chair of European Politics, at the School of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent. Elena is an LSE IDEAS Visiting Professor; executive member of the GLOBSEC IAB and co-founder/ co-director of the Global Europe Centre at Kent. She is the Principal Investigator of the GCRF RCUK COMPASS project (2017-21), a Co-I for the H2020 UPTAKE project (2016-19) and coordinator for the ERASMUS+ mobility project with BSU (2017-18; 2018-19). Elena is the author of 9 books and over 50 articles. Her current research focuses on the concepts of adaptive governance; resilience; 'good life' and identity; capacity-development and peoplehood.

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Dr Siddharth Saxena, University of Cambridge, Co-investigator, GCRF COMPASS project

Siddharth Shanker Saxena is Director of the Cambridge Central Asia Programme. He trained as an anthropologist, historian and a physicist and holds PhD degrees both in Experimental Physics and Social Anthropology. His research interests are in the areas of religion and identity, knowledge systems, social and political development and institutional history in Central Asia and the Middle East.

Dr Saxena has been involved in field based research in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Russia and China. His work focus is, on the one side, in creation of scientific and industrial technology platforms, while on the other in studying social and economic development in Bukhara, Ferghana Valley, Almaty and Azerbaijan. He was awarded a medal for service to education in Kazakhstan and Presidential Medals by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and was made Honorary Professor by a number of institutions in Eurasia. He serves on science review committees of many European, American and Asian bodies and has created a number of technology start-ups.

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Sherzod Abdullaev, D.Sc., Ph.D., is a senior research professor and Head of the Center for Advanced International Studies at UWED. He is a career diplomat and worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 25 years. He was an Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (2000-2010). He worked as the Head of Coordination-Analytical Center for Foreign Policy Studies (2010-2012) and the Vice-rector of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan (2012-2015). Previously he also served as the Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of Uzbekistan to the United States of America. Professor Abdullaev is the author of numerous books and articles, policy papers on ethno-social and ethno-political processes in Central Asia, problems of regional and international security.

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Mir-Akbar Rakhmankulov, Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan / Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan

First Deputy Director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan, member of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Professor has a doctorate in law. Prior to that, he held the post of Secretary of the National Security Council under the President of Republic of Uzbekistan, director of the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan, State Advisor to the President of Republic of Uzbekistan, vice-rector of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy.

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Ambassador Bakhtiyor Islamov, Tashkent branch of University of Plekhanov

Ambassador Bakhtiyor. Islamov is doctor of economic sciences, professor, Tashkent Branch of REU after G.V. Plekhanov and Tashkent State Economic University. Has over 40 years of experience in diplomatic, scientific and teaching work. He is a career diplomat. Graduated from MGIMO (1977).

Worked as head of the press department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, head of the external relations department of the Academy of Sciences, head of the "World Economy" chair, Vice-rector of the Tashkent State Economic University, vice-rector of the Banking and Finance Academy, acting Executive Director of "Ustoz" Fund, Advisor and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Russia and Belarus.

Has extensive international academic and practical experience: as an advisor to the UN Representative and director of the UNDP project in Uzbekistan, as well as a visiting scholar at Harvard University and a professor at Tohoku, Hitotsubashi, Hokkaido Universities (Japan). Has about 150 monographs, brochures, journal articles and papers, 45 of which are published in the USA, Japan, Russia and many other foreign countries, marked by 3 Hirsches of Scopus, 3 - Google Scholar and 2 - RSCI. Research interests covers reforms in Central Asian states and their integration to the world economy.

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Professor Nick Megoran, Newcastle University

Nick Megoran is Professor of Political Geography at Newcastle University, England. He is author of many publications on Central Asia, including Nationalism in Central Asia: A Biography of the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan Boundary (Pittsburgh University Press, 2017).

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Bakhodur Eshonov, Independent researcher

Bakhodur Eshonov is an experienced expert in development policy. In the early 1990s he worked in different government institutions of Uzbekistan (State Planning Committee, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, State Committee for Forecasting and Statistics). In 1994 he joined UNDP as coordinator of the first National Human Development Report of UNDP. He later worked at different positions with UNDP being in charge of some major initiatives and programmes. The latter particularly included the set up of one of the most influential think tank in Tank-Tank in Uzbekistan - Center for Economic Research (www.cer.uz). In this his capacity, Bakhodur Eshonov was engaged in the formulation of the first national medium-term Welfare Improvement Strategy and later in the formulation of Vision-2030 for Uzbekistan. He is currently an independent consultant, provides consultancy for major development actors in the region of Central Asia (UNDESA, Asian Development Bank, FAO, ESCAP, etc.).

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Dr Ulugbeck A. Khasanov is a Chair of International Relations Department and Associate Professor at the University of World Economics & Diplomacy. He graduated from Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) and later its Graduate School of Political Science. In 2003 he defended his PhD dissertation on issues of Regional Security and National Interests of CA5 at the Moscow Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) of the Russian Academy of Sciences. In January-June 2004 he participated in University Extension Program at UC Berkeley. In 2009-2011 he served as Press Secretary/Aide to the President of Uzbekistan. Ulugbeck Khasanov has 50 plus publications, monograph and textbooks. His research interests cover the field of international relations theory, its general trends, attributes, behaviour, driving forces, determining dimensions of the Central Asian politics

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Dr Matteo Fumagalli is Senior Lecturer in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. His interests are in the foreign policies of the Central Asian states, ethnic minority politics, and energy and environmental issues. Recent and forthcoming publications include 'The BRICS, energy security and global energy governance' (In S.Y. Kim, ed, BRICS and the Global Economy, 2020), 'Order in Asia beyond power transition' (Asian public policy and politics, 2018), 'Stateness, contested nationhood and imperilled sovereignty: the effects of non-western linkages and leverage on conflicts in Kyrgyzstan' (East European Politics, 2016), 'Ethnic Conflict in Central Asia: Exit, voice and loyalties among Uzbek minorities' (Routledge, 2020 fc) and 'New Silk Roads, growing inter- Asian connections. South Korea's quest for energy and new markets in Central Asia (Palgrave, 2020 fc).

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Irina Zvyagelskaya is Head of Center for Middle East Studies at the Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences. She is also a Chief Research Associate at the Institute of Oriental Studies. Irina Zvyagelskaya is a Professor at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations under the Russian Foreign Ministry. Dr Zvyagelskaya's area of expertise includes contemporary history, conflicts, international relations and security issues in the Middle East and Central Asia. She authored over 200 publications, including books, chapters and articles.

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Professor Munira Shahidi, GCRF COMPASS National Team Lead for Tajikistan

Professor Munira Shahidi was trained in comparative literary studies of East and West. Her PhD has been made at the Institute of Oriental Studies of Academy of Sciences of the USSR. As a member of the Public Council near the President of RT she is involved into the most important discussions and discourses on the developing and changing policies of the country, of the region and inter-regional communications. She is a fellow of the Swedish Institute, Maison Des Sciences de L'Homme (Paris) and she is an associate member of Cambridge University. Prof Shahidi has published widely in national and international outlets and initiated the publication of the journal 'Fonus', dedicated to international, intercultural study for peace and development, financed by different organisations (including the Swiss office for cooperation in Tajikistan, UNDP, UNESCO and OSCE). Prof Shahidi's project, actualised in 2016 is 'Music of the Silk Road: from peace-building perspectives of Central Asia, dedicated to centenary of the composer Z. Shahidi'. The project is funded by UNESCO and had a feedback of the number of the countries of the New Silk Road.

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Professor Victor Shadurski, Belarusian State University

Prof. Victor Shadurski is Dean of the Faculty of International Relations of the Belarusian State University (since Sept. 2008). His professional profile includes being Head of the BSU Department of International Relations for five years (1992-1997), he has participated in numerous educational and research cooperation projects. The sphere of academic interests includes current issues of foreign policy of the Republic of Belarus, its relations with European states, internal and foreign policy of France, place and role of the Baltic states in contemporary world politics, global development challenges and their impact on Belarus. Professor Shadurski authored numerous academic papers on these topics, including those published abroad, monographs and manuals. He is member of the BSU Council, serves as the Head of "Journal of International Law and International Relations" editorial board.

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Professor Zhao Huasheng researches Sino-Russian relations, the relationship between China and Central Asian countries, the SCO, and Afghanistan. From 2005 to 2017 he was the director of the Center for Russia and Central Asia Studies, at the Center for the SCO Studies, Fudan University. Prior to Fudan University he worked at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies as a researcher and Director of the Department of Russia and Central Asia during 1986-2004. He studied in the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1989-1990. He was a visiting fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington D.C. (Russia and Eurasia Program, 2011). He is the author of numerous articles in Chinese, English and Russian. His books include: *The Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Analysis and Outlook* (2012); *China's Central Asian Diplomacy* (2008); and *Central Asia: View from Washington, Moscow, and Beijing* (the co-author, 2007).

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Dr Davood Moradian was born in Herat Province Afghanistan. He has completed his undergraduate studies at the University of London, in the fields of International Relations and International Law. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from University of St. Andrews (Scotland), where he also taught International Relations. His thesis focused on a comparative study of the conception of punishment in the traditions of ancient Greece, Islam and international criminal justice. He served as Chief of Presidential Programs at President Hamid Karzai Office Afghanistan Senior Policy Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs also worked as Head of the Strategic Studies Center under the Foreign Ministry in Kabul Afghanistan. He is currently the General Director of Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS).

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Jacob L. Shapiro, Geopolitical Futures

Jacob Logan Shapiro is a geopolitical analyst who explains and predicts global trends. Mr Shapiro began his career at Strategic Forecasting in 2010 as a Middle East Analyst. In 2015, Mr Shapiro left Strategic Forecasting to become the first Director of Analysis at Geopolitical Futures, a position which he has been holding for four years. Mr. Shapiro recently has started a new company focused on bringing geopolitical insights to multinational companies exposed to the various political, economic, and security components of geopolitical risk. Mr Shapiro did his undergraduate work at Cornell University and holds a Master's degree with distinction from Oxford University, where his dissertation won the David Patterson award. In addition to writing numerous articles such sources as Geopolitical Futures, Horizons, Limes, Stratfor, and the Valdai Club, Mr Shapiro often appears regularly in major media outlets to provide expert perspective on political developments around the world. Mr Shapiro currently lives in Austin, Texas.

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Haroun Mir, Center for Research and Policy Studies

Haroun Mir has been engaged in the political evolution of Afghanistan for the past two decades as an advisor to foreign donors and governments, as an analyst and researcher and as a participant in his own right. Also, he had served as a special assistant to late Ahmad Shah Massoud, Afghanistan's former Defense Minister from 1993-99. Currently he serves as a consultant and political analyst, and he is a co-founder of Afghanistan's Center for Research and Policy Studies (ACRPS), where he authored and co-authored a number of studies on Afghanistan's economic, political, and security situation. In addition, he has managed a number of donor-funded projects in the country and provided consulting services and analyses on the Afghan political situation for various domestic and foreign institutions. Mr Mir has published widely on the development of Afghanistan. His Op-eds have appeared in international media among others the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Times of India, The Daily Beast, and Asia Times. He also conducted research and analyses for institutions such as The World Bank, Carnegie Endowment for International

Peace, The United States Institute of Peace, Johns Hopkins' Central Asia Caucasus Institute, and many more. He has an undergraduate degree in Physics from University of Paris VII in France and a graduate degree in Economics from George Mason University in Virginia, USA.

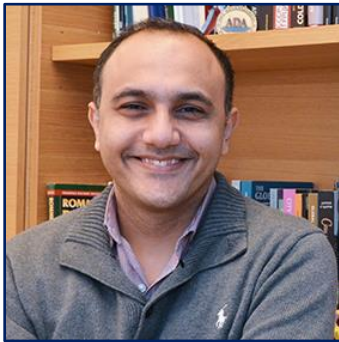
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Ambassador Doniyor Kurbanov is Director of the Information-analytical Center for International Relations. He is a career diplomat. Graduated from MGIMO (1990). He received his PhD in Economics at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. Ambassador Kurbanov worked as head of the department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan, vice-director at the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and was Ambassador of Uzbekistan to China.



Professor Roy Allison, University of Oxford

Roy Allison is Professor of Russian and Eurasian International Relations at the School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford. He is Director of the Centre for Russian and Eurasian Studies, St. Antony's College. His former positions include Reader in International Relations, London School of Economics (2005-11) and Head of the Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House (1993-2005). He has directed numerous research projects, for example Central Asian and Caucasian Prospects (Chatham House, 1994-2005). His ten books (sole author, co-authored or edited), include *Central Asian Security: The New International Context* and most recently *Russia, the West and Military Intervention* (OUP, 2013). Recent articles include 'Protective integration and security policy coordination: comparing the SCO and CSTO', the *Chinese Journal of International Politics* (September 2018). His research interests cover the international relations, foreign and security policies of Russia and Eurasia.

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Dr Akram Umarov is Senior Research Fellow at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. Previously he worked as a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. He received his PhD in International Relations at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy. He has graduated from the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex with MA in "Governance, Development and Public Policy". He has great interest in security studies, conflict management, public diplomacy, Afghanistan, Central Asian studies, CIS countries, public administration, global security, peace and development. Akram Umarov is the author of the monograph *Afghanistan and regional security of Central Asia: the beginning of XXI century* (in Russian) (UWED, 2017) and the book chapter "Donald Trump's Presidency and the Implementation of OBOR in Central Asia" (in "Changing Regional Alliances for China and West", eds. D.Lane, G.Zhu, Lexington Books, 2017). His articles have appeared in "Central Asian Affairs", "Asia and Africa", "National Strategy Issues", "Comparative Politics", "Defence Journal" and other peer reviewed journals.

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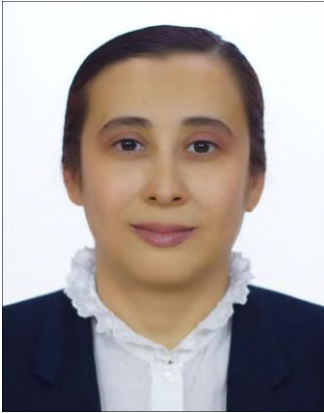


HE Ambassador Stiprais, Head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan

On 19 September 2016, Ambassador Eduards Stiprais started his work as the Head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan. He previously occupied the post of the Undersecretary of State and Political Director at the Latvian Foreign Ministry. Eduards Stiprais is the third EU Ambassador to Uzbekistan since opening of the Delegation in this country in 2011. Eduards Stiprais has worked for the Latvian Diplomatic Service since 1993. He has worked as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Director-General of the Bilateral Relations Directorate, Head of the Chancery of the President of Latvia, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary in the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the European Union, as well as serving as Head of the Secretariat of Latvia's Delegation for Accession

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Professor Fabienne Bossuyt, Ghent University

Fabienne Bossuyt is Assistant Professor at the Centre for EU Studies at the Department of Political Science at Ghent University (Belgium). She is also an associate researcher at EUCAM. Her main area of expertise is the EU's relations with Central Asia. Her most recent research projects focus on various aspects of the EU's relations with and policies towards Central Asia and other post-Soviet countries, including development policy, human rights promotion and connectivity. She has published articles in, among others, *Democratization*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, *East European Politics & Societies*, and *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*. She is currently co-editing a book on the EU-Russia relationship (Brill), as well as a book on the EU's and China's engagement with Central Asia (Routledge). She was involved in the preparation of the EU's new strategy for Central Asia, including as rapporteur for the EU Special Representative for Central Asia.

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Rustam Makhmudov, Independent Researcher

Rustam Makhmudov is an independent Uzbek political analyst. After graduating from the Tashkent State Institute of Oriental Studies in 1995, he worked as a teacher of Pashto and Dari languages for three years. Then, he has served as an analyst in the Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies under the President of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as deputy director of the Center for Political Studies for 14 years. He is currently a columnist and a regular contributor to the *Economic Review* journal (Uzbekistan). His areas of interest encompass primarily the development of a cross-disciplinary approach in political analytics, as well regional geopolitics, the Fourth Industrial revolution, transport communications, youth migration, Postmodernism and the theory of modern political thinking. Makhmudov is the author of 250 articles published in Uzbekistan, Russia, Germany and the U.S.

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Nilufar Rakhmatullaeva is a PhD student at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (Tashkent, Uzbekistan). Her research interest focuses on Central Asian studies in France. Prior to this, she taught at the International Relations faculty of the UWED and worked at the Office for International Cooperation of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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Dr Diana T. Kudaibergenova, University of Cambridge



Dr Diana T. Kudaibergenova is the COMPASS PDRA responsible for Sustainable Communities Pillar of the project. She is a cultural and political sociologist with main research interest in social theory of power and authority. Dr Kudaibergenova studies different intersections of power relations through realms of political sociology dealing with concepts of state, nationalising regimes and ideologies. Diana received her PhD in 2015 from the Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge. Her first book, *Rewriting the Nation in Modern Kazakh literature. Elites and Narratives* (Lexington Books, 2017) deals with the study of nationalism, modernisation and cultural development in modern Kazakhstan. Her second book, *Toward Nationalizing Regimes. Conceptualizing Power and Identity in the Post-Soviet Realm* focuses on the rise of nationalising regimes in post-Soviet space after 1991 with prime focus on power struggles among the political and cultural elites in democratic and non-democratic states (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2020). Dr Kudaibergenova also widely published in such journals as *Nationalities Papers*, *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, and others.

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Irina Petrova is a Post-doctoral research associate at the GCRF COMPASS project, University of Kent and a researcher at the Leuven International and European Studies (LINES) Institute at KU Leuven. Her research concentrates on comparative analysis of the EU and Russia's foreign policy strategies and their perceptions in the Eastern Partnership states. Previously Irina worked as a teaching assistant at the European Studies master program at KU Leuven and an adjunct lecturer at Vesalius College, Brussels. She was a research assistant for the H2020 UPTAKE project and Jean Monnet Network "C3EU: Crisis, Conflict and Critical Diplomacy: EU Perceptions in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine," led by the University of Christchurch, New Zealand.

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Temur Islamov, University of World Economy and Diplomacy

Temur Islamov is a research fellow at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Uzbekistan. He previously worked as a senior lecturer at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and a lecturer at Management Development Institute of Singapore in Tashkent. He received his master's degree at the American University in Dubai. At the moment, he is obtaining his PhD at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in Russia.

Temur is interested in Global and Regional Security issues, Afghanistan, Central Asia, International Relations and Diplomacy.

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Matlyuba Salikhova, Tajik National University

Matlyuba Salikhova is Head of the Public Charity organisation "Peshraft", based in Dushanbe. She is the leader of the youth movement, whose main mission is to be building the capacity of young people in Tajikistan. Through cooperation with international as well as local organisations, Peshraft is implementing social development projects for young people and vulnerable groups.

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Professor Andrew Kuchins, American University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, USA

Andrew Kuchins is a world renowned scholar/practitioner on Russia and Eurasia. He has authored, edited, and co-authored seven books on the region, more than 150 book chapters, monographs, reports, journal articles, and op-eds on the region and is frequently called upon by global media, governments, and leading private sector companies and investors for consultation. Much of his research has addressed Soviet and Russian foreign policy, Sino-Russian relations, and for much of the past decade the evolving political economy of the super continent of Eurasia. From 2013-2015 at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington (CSIS) he directed the project Reconnecting Eurasia that included more than a dozen trips to Central Asia to interview government officials, representatives of leading multilateral organizations, experts, journalists, and leading private sector figures. This research resulted in exhaustive country study reports of the five Central Asian

states and an additional report with policy recommendations on the region to the U.S. government.

Dr. Kuchins has held faculty, research, and administrative positions at the University of California at Berkeley, Stanford University, and the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). Most recently, from 2015-2019, Dr. Kuchins was a Research Professor at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service where he taught and ran the Russia Futures program. Before that he directed the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Center for Security and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington DC (2007-2015) and directed the Russia and Eurasia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, including running the Carnegie Moscow Center for three years, from 2000-2007. He also served as a Senior Program Officer for the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation with responsibility for developing and managing their Initiative in the Former Soviet Union, a program to support scientists, researchers, and civil society activist across the region (1993-1997). Dr. Kuchins served on the Advisory Council from 1997-2003 of the Program on Basic Research and Higher Education (BRHE), an innovative program supported by the Russian government to link research and training in the fundamental sciences in Russian universities.

Dr. Kuchins received his M.A. (1985) and Ph.D. (1992) in Soviet Studies and International Relations from the Johns Hopkins University SAIS and his B.A. magna cum laude in Russian Studies from Amherst College in 1981. He is highly proficient in Russian and proficient, if rusty, in French, Italian, and Spanish.

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Lord Teverson, House of Lords and COMPASS AB member

Robin Teverson is a member of the House of Lords specialising in European, energy and environmental issues. He is a member of the House's EU Committee and chairs its Energy and Environment sub-committee. Previously he has also chaired its external affairs sub-committee. He also chaired the House of Lords' ad-hoc Arctic Committee. Robin was previously a member of the European Parliament representing Cornwall and Plymouth where he spoke on marine, regional, and fisheries issues.

As well as being a member of the Lords, he is a board member of the Marine Management Organisation and chairs a regional commercial development company. His original career was in the freight industry, and then financial services. He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment. He lives in Cornwall.

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