

2026 CAMCA Regional Forum Agenda
October 1-2, 2026, Fairmont Baku Flame Towers

The World and CAMCA: A Region at the Crossroads

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

0800-0900 **Registration and welcome coffee, Fairmont Baku Flame Towers**

0900-0915 **Welcoming Remarks**

- [Dr. Svante Cornell](#) | *Director, Research and Publications, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute*
- [Dr. Fuad Karimov](#) | *Chairperson of the Board of Directors, CAMCA Network; CAMCA Network National Coordinator for Azerbaijan*
- [Tamar Kekenadze](#) | *Managing Director, CAMCA Regional Forum*
- [Amy Carlon](#) | *Chargé d'affaires, U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan*
- [Sarah Tonucci](#) | *Executive Director, Rumsfeld Foundation*

0915-0930 **Keynote Address – "A Greater Central Asia-Caucasus Convergence"**

- [Dr. Frederick Starr](#) | *Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, American Foreign Policy Council*

0930-1000 **Keynote Address**

- [H.E. Mikayil Jabbarov](#) | *Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Invited)*

INTRODUCTION/MODERATOR: [Sarkhan Hashimov](#) | *Deputy Chairman, Cybernet Azerbaijan; CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan*

1000-1030 **NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK**

1030-1100 **Keynote Interview**

SPEAKER: [H.E. Sodyq Safoev](#) | *First Deputy Chairman, Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

INTERVIEWER: [Ali Aslan](#) | *International TV Presenter & Journalist*

1100-1200 **Plenary Session – "CAMCA toward 2030: Global Shifts Affecting the Region"**

MODERATOR: [Ali Aslan](#) | *International TV Presenter & Journalist*

SPEAKERS:

- [Dr. Farid Shafiyev](#) | *Chairman of the Center of Analysis of International Relations (AIR Center)*
- [Amb. Philip Reeker](#) | *Partner and Practice Lead for Europe & Eurasia, DGA-Albright Stoneridge Group*
- [Amb. Gela Bezhuashvili](#) | *Board Member, Strategy International (SI) Ltd.; Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defense of Georgia*
- [Amb. Sodyq Safoev](#) | *First Deputy Chairman, Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan*

1200-1300 LUNCHEON – [Connect with the CAMCA Network](#)

Join a sector-based lunch to connect with regional leaders of the CAMCA Network within the following Working Groups:

- *Connect with CAMCA Business and Tech/AI*
- *Connect with CAMCA Education*
- *Connect with CAMCA Think Tanks and Media*

1300-1330 **Keynote Interview** ["The Turkic World and the Future of Regional Cooperation"](#)

SPEAKER: [Amb. Kubanychbek Omuraliev](#) | *Secretary-General of the Organization of Turkic States*

INTERVIEWER: [Dr. Frederick Starr](#) | *Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, American Foreign Policy Council*

1330-1430 **CAMCA Conversation (Ballroom) – "AI Is Redrawing the Map of Global Tech: Where Does the CAMCA Region Fit?" – SPONSORED by LINEATE**

MODERATOR: [Sarkhan Hashimov](#) | *Deputy Chairman, Cybernet Azerbaijan; CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan*

SPEAKERS:

- [Giorgi Tsikolia](#) | *Executive Vice President, Europe and the Middle East, Lineate*
- [Adeniyi Adebayo](#) | *Chief Business Officer, Yango Group*
- [Dovlat Dovlatov](#) | *Deputy CEO, Azericonnect Group*
- [Fariz Jafarov](#) | *Executive Director of 4SiM (Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution)*

1330-1430 **CAMCA Roundtable – "Education for Innovation, Connectivity, and Regional Resilience"**

MODERATOR: [Tamar Kekenadze](#) | *Managing Director, CAMCA Regional Forum; CAMCA Network Member, Georgia*

SPEAKERS:

- [Dr. Fariz Ismailzade](#) | *Deputy Chairman of Education and Science Committee, Parliament of Azerbaijan; Vice Rector for External, and Government Affairs, ADA University; Director, Institute for Development and Diplomacy (IDD), ADA University*
- [Amb. Gela Bezhuashvili](#) | *Chairman of the Supervisory Board, European School in Tbilisi; Chairman and CEO, David Bezhuashvili Education Foundation*

- [William Maley AM](#) | *Emeritus Professor of Diplomacy at the Australian National University*
- [Brittney Stirling](#) | *Regional Director of the Levant, Turkey & the Caucasus, The Stirling Foundation*
- [Anar Jahangirli](#) | *Strategy, Digital Transformation and Advancement Lead, Qarabağ University; CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan*

1430-1500 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK – **SPONSORED by Xsolla**

1500-1545 Plenary Session – "[Voices in Focus: Meet the CAMCA Network](#)"

MODERATOR: [Tamar Kekenadze](#) | *Managing Director, CAMCA Regional Forum; CAMCA Network Member, Georgia*

SPEAKERS:

- [Aizhan Zhantayeva](#) | *Co-founder and CEO of CAMCA Talking Magazine, CAMCA Network Member, Kazakhstan; Fidan Huseynli* | *Co-founder of CAMCA Talking Magazine, CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan; Laura Demessinova* | *Co-founder of CAMCA Talking Magazine, CAMCA Network Member, Kazakhstan*
- [Undral Amarsaikhan](#) | *Founder of CAMCA TV, CAMCA Network Member, Mongolia*
- [Jenny Jenish kyzy](#) | *CAMCA TechBiz Project; CAMCA Network Member, Kyrgyzstan*

1545-1645 CAMCA Conversation (*Ballroom*) – "[Regional and Global Consequences of the Iran War](#)"

MODERATOR: [Dr. Ilya Roubanis](#) | *Senior Research Fellow, Institute of International Relations, Athens, Greece*

SPEAKERS:

- [Ilan Berman](#) | *Senior Vice-President, American Foreign Policy Council*
- [Dr. Svante Cornell](#) | *Director, Research and Publications, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute*
- [Dr. Brenda Shaffer](#) | *Research Faculty Member at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School; Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center*
- [Prof. Damjan Krnjević Mišković](#) | *Director for Policy Research, Analysis and Publications, Institute for Development and Diplomacy (IDD), ADA University; Visiting Scholar, American Foreign Policy Council*

1545-1645 CAMCA Roundtable – "[Regional Synergies: Designing the Next Digital Silk Road](#)"

MODERATOR: [Nargis Dustmatova](#) | *Chairwomen, FinTech Association Uzbekistan and Finextra Group; Board Member of PAYNET in Uzbekistan; CAMCA Network Member, Uzbekistan*

SPEAKERS:

- [Tughra Musayeva](#) | *Head of Innovations, PASHA Financial Holding*
- [Jenny Jenish kyzy](#) | *Product Owner, MBank Junior; CAMCA Network Member, Kyrgyzstan*
- [Muna Shukurova](#) | *Managing Director; Alif in Uzbekistan; CAMCA Network Member, Tajikistan*
- [Jonathan Low](#) | *CEO, Ampyre Group, Singapore; #1 Best-Selling Author, Cell to CEO*

1645-1700 BREAK

1700-1800 **Plenary Session – "Greater Central Asia Convergence: From C5 to a Wider Framework"**

MODERATOR: [Dr. Frederick Starr](#) | *Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, AFPC*

SPEAKERS:

- [Zhandos Shaimardanov](#) | *Director, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan*
- [Farrukh Irnazarov](#) | *Head of Representative Office/Chief of Party, Chemonics International; Co-Founder and Country Director, Central Asian Development Institute of Tashkent; CAMCA Network Member, Uzbekistan*
- [Amb. Eduards Stiprais](#) | *EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Central Asia*
- [Dr. Dania Arayssi](#) | *Assistant Director, New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

0800-0900 Registration and welcome coffee, Fairmont Baku Flame Towers

0900-0930 **Keynote Interview**

SPEAKER: [H.E. Hikmet Hajiyev](#) | *Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Head of the Department of Foreign Policy Affairs of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

INTERVIEWER: [Ali Aslan](#) | *International TV Presenter & Journalist*

0930-1030 **Plenary Session – "Connecting CAMCA to the World: Building Regional and Global Economic Connectivity"**

MODERATOR: [Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli](#) | *Senior Fellow, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute; President, America-Georgia Business Council*

SPEAKERS:

- [Amb. Matthew Bryza](#) | *Jamestown Foundation Board Member; Managing Director at Straife LLC; Partner at Abbert Capital; former U.S. Amb to Azerbaijan*
- [Farrukh Irnazarov](#) | *Head of Representative Office/Chief of Party, Chemonics International; Co-Founder and Country Director, Central Asian Development Institute of Tashkent; CAMCA Network Member, Uzbekistan*
- [Samir Mammadov](#) | *Azerbaijan Country Representative, United Nations Global Compact; CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan*
- [Eldaniz Gusseinov](#) | *Co-Founder and Chief of Research, Nightingale Int.*

1030-1100 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

1100-1130	Keynote Interview	"Backing the Future: Investing in Innovation During an Age of AI"
	SPEAKER:	Lucy Chow <i>Investor (LP, Pact VC), International Author & Ecosystem Builder</i>
	INTERVIEWER:	Khulan Davaadorj <i>International Award-Winning Social Entrepreneur; Founder and Chief Technologist, Lhamour; CAMCA Network Member, Mongolia</i>
1130-1230	CAMCA Conversation (<i>Ballroom</i>) –	"Entrepreneurship in CAMCA: Scaling Regional Success"
	MODERATOR:	Rufat Abbasov <i>Founder, Synergy Partnership LLC; CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan</i>
	SPEAKERS:	• Lucy Chow <i>Investor (LP, Pact VC), International Author & Ecosystem Builder</i> • Urkhan Seyidov <i>Regional Government Relations Director, Yango Group</i> • Anatoly Strutinsky <i>Senior Vice President, Government & Industry Relations - EMEA & CCA, Xsolla</i> • Victor Orlovski <i>Founder and Managing Partner, R136 Ventures</i> • Farida Asgarzade <i>Founder and Managing Director, HUMAN Lab; CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan</i>
1130-1230	CAMCA Roundtable –	"Culture, Identity and Regional Narratives"
	MODERATOR:	Rasmina Gurbatova <i>Owner and Designer, Resm Jewelry; CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan</i>
	SPEAKERS:	• Dr. Ravan Hasanov <i>Independent Expert</i> • Chyngyz Batyrbekov <i>Co-Founder and CEO, KOLFEST; CAMCA Network Member, Kyrgyzstan</i> • Dr. Murod Ismailov <i>Associate Professor at University of Tsukuba, Japan; President, CAMCA Academic Consortium/CAMCA Academy; CAMCA Network Member, Uzbekistan</i> • Eldaniz Gusseinov <i>Co-Founder and Chief of Research, Nightingale Int.</i> • Nino Egadze <i>Creative Lead and Founder, Design Institute; CAMCA Network Member, Georgia</i> • Dinara Gaplan <i>Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of "Bolashak Charity" Public Foundation; CAMCA Network Member, Kazakhstan</i>
1230-1330	LUNCHEON	
1330-1415	Plenary Session –	"Voices in Focus: Meet the CAMCA Network"
	MODERATOR:	Rufat Hasanov <i>Award-winning film director, producer and lecturer, Bazelevs Company; CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan</i>

SPEAKERS:

- [Rasmina Gurbatova](#) | Owner and Designer, Resm Jewelry; CAMCA Network Member, Azerbaijan
- [Nino Egadze](#) | Creative Lead and Founder, Design Institute; CAMCA Network Member, Georgia
- [Dinara Gaplan](#) | Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of "Bolashak Charity" Public Foundation; CAMCA Network Member, Kazakhstan
- [Hadeia Amiry](#) | National Security Fellow, Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD); Senior Fellow (non-resident), Center for a New American Security (CNAS); CAMCA Network Member, Afghanistan

1415-1515 **Plenary Session – "Unlocking CAMCA's Growth Potential: The Policy Case for Regional Cooperation"**

MODERATOR: [Anthony Kim](#) | Jay Kingham Research Fellow in International Economic Affairs, Editor of the Index of Economic Freedom, Manager of Global Engagement at Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, The Heritage Foundation

SPEAKERS:

- [Orkhan Mustafayev](#) | Founder & Chairman of the Board, Sabah Investment Group
- [Rolande Simone Pryce](#) | Regional Director for the South Caucasus, World Bank
- [Alex Aleksishvili](#) | Chairman and CEO at Policy and Management Consulting Group (PMCG), former Minister of Finance of Georgia
- [Rakhim Oshakbayev](#) | Director of the Center of Applied Research TALAP; CAMCA Network Member, Kazakhstan

1515-1545 NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK

1545-1645 **Plenary Session – "Unlocking CAMCA's Growth Potential: The Private Sector Advantage"**

MODERATOR: [Natig Bakhishov](#) | Executive Director, United States-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce

SPEAKERS:

- [Jalal Gasimov](#) | CEO, Pasha Holding
- [Kodirjon Norov](#) | Managing Partner, Highland Capital
- [Orkhan Mustafayev](#) | Founder & Chairman of the Board, Sabah Investment Group
- [Mikheil Nibladze](#) | Senior Strategic Advisor, Cerberus Capital Management; Senior Advisor, LPX Partners
- [Aliy Akbarov](#) | Investor Relations, Franklin Templeton

1645-1700 BREAK

1700-1730 **Plenary Session – "Statesmen's Conversation: CAMCA's Role in a Changing World"**

MODERATOR: [Dr. Frederick Starr](#) | *Chairman, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, American Foreign Policy Council*

SPEAKERS:

- [Amb. Hafiz Pashayev](#) | *Rector, ADA University; former Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States*
- [Amb. Sodyq Safoev](#) | *First Deputy Chairman, Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan; former Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the United States*
- [Amb. Irakli Alasania](#) | *Co-Founder and CEO, SODI Investment; former Ambassador of Georgia to the United Nations and former Minister of Defense of Georgia*

1730-1745 Closing Ceremony