

Geocase Annual Report 2021



Preface

We have the honor to introduce the second annual report of Geocase. As a think-tank, Geocase supports the formulation and development of policies based upon the rule of law, human rights, balanced government, a free and responsible market economy that will strengthen Georgia's regional and international roles, promote the country's national and state interests, and maintain the general public informed about ongoing domestic and external developments.

Geocase provides the Georgian authorities with analytical support to enable its informed decision-making that effectively facilitates the country's Euro-Atlantic and European ambitions, ensures its stable institutional development and promotes further its political and economic reforms.

Policy papers and other materials prepared by Geocase are based upon careful and realistic situational analyses and offer decision-makers rational, tangible and result-oriented solutions to some of the challenges they may face.

From October 2019 to December 2021 the representatives of Geocase have published more than 250 articles and interviews on Georgia's domestic and foreign policies as well as on critical international topics such as the coronavirus pandemic, its effects in terms of shifting balances of power between international actors and future trends of the post-pandemic international system.

Geocase publishes an online monthly journal focusing on the analysis of different topics of national and international importance and gives on them Georgian perspective. The Chair of Geocase and researchers have made numerous appearances in both Georgian and foreign media on Georgia's domestic and foreign policies and challenges.

Geocase regularly holds online discussions on political issues and Georgia's regional and international role with both Georgian and foreign experts. The representatives of Geocase also regularly take part in online international discussions and conferences.

Also, Geocase implemented the training project - 'Foreign and Security Policy'. Within this program, the Geocase Alumni are involved in our activities. At the same time, they have the opportunity to publish articles on foreign and security issues.

We would like to express our gratitude for your interest in the second annual report of Geocase.

Yours sincerely,

Victor Kipiani
Chair of Geocase

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Events



Geocase Hosts the Participants of the Transatlantic Security Initiative (TSI) by International Republican Institute (IRI)

Date: 15.12.2021

On December 15, 2021, Geocase hosted the participants of the International Republican Institute (IRI) program - the Transatlantic Security Initiative (TSI). The Geocase chairman Victor

Kipiani, and the non-resident fellow Nikoloz Khatiashvili met with the guests.

The Transatlantic Security Initiative (TSI) is an annual program that brings together top policymakers, government and military officials, business leaders, and senior experts from Europe and North America to share insights and develop innovative approaches to the key challenges facing NATO and the transatlantic community.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/589/analitikurma-organizaciam-jeoqeisi-iri-is-programis-transatlantikuri-usaftrkhoebis-iniciativis-tsi-monatsileebsumaspindzla>

Victor Kipiani, the Chairman of Geocase, delivers a lecture within 'The South Caucasus in a Wider Black Sea Regional Security Context Course'

Date: 10.12.2021

The Geocase Chairman Victor Kipiani was invited to deliver a lecture during



the international course entitled “The South Caucasus in a Wider Black Sea Regional Security Context” coordinated and organized by Defence Institution Building School (DIBS).

The aim of the course was to discuss the topics related to the South Caucasus and the wider Black Sea region security topics including balance of power in the region, conflicts, role and importance of internal and external actors in the geopolitical context, NATO and EU strategic objectives, hybrid threats, energy, and economic security as well as issues of the identity, culture, and religion of the countries.

The course was led by leading Georgian and international experts in the field and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

During his presentation, Victor Kipiani reviewed the aftermath of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and discussed its impact in light of the regional context.

It was the second time that the course was conducted. The course was attended by the defense and security sectors representatives of Georgia, France, Poland, Ukraine, Turkey, and Bulgaria.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/582/jeoqesis-tavmjdomarem-viqtor-yifianma-tavdacvis-instituciuri-aghmsheneblobis-skolis-dibs-mier-organizebul-saertashoriso-kursis-farglebshi-leqcia-tsaiktkha>



An online discussion on 'The Role of Public Diplomacy on the Way Towards the EU' was held in partnership with Geocase

Date: 26.11.2021

An online discussion on 'The Role of Public Diplomacy on the Way Towards the EU' was held at the initiative of the Young Ambassador of Georgia to Italy, Mariam Botchorishvili, and in partnership with Geocase.

Honorary guests and participants of the event: Mr Vladimer Konstantinidi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Mr Victor Kipiani, the Chairman of Geocase, Ambassador Mikhail Ukleba, Research Fellow at the Diplomatic Institute, Ms Tamriko Mikadze, the representative of the Policy and Press Department of the EU Delegation to Georgia, Mr Iveri Kekenadze, Georgia's Young Ambassador to Sweden, Ms Nino Tsereteli, Georgia's Young Ambassador to Ireland, Ms Sofio Bakradze and Ms Guli Bekurishvili, the Geocase alumni, spoke about the role and importance of public diplomacy.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/561/jeoqeistan-partniorobit-onlain-gankhilva-sakhalkho-diplomatiis-rol-i-evrokavshiris-gzaze-gaimarta>

Victor Kipiani, the Chairman of Geocase, was invited to speak at the Caspian Security Conference

Date: 18.11.2021

Victor Kipiani spoke at the panel discussion entitled ‘Formulating A Unified Regional Response to Afghanistan’ within the Caspian



Security Conference organized by the Washington-based Caspian Policy Center and the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESA Center) of the U.S. National Defense University.

The event explored what comes next for the Greater Caspian Region in the wake of the United States and other NATO allies’ withdrawal from Afghanistan. The panel discussion was held in a Q&A format and moderated by Dr Brianne Todd, Assistant Professor of Central Asian Studies, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University (USA).

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/554/jeoqeisis-tavmjdomare-viqtor-yifiani-kaspiis-usaftrtkhoebis-konferenciAZE-sityvit-gamovida>



Victor Kipiani, the Chairman of Geocase, was invited to speak during the 34th Georgian Studies Day

Date: 17.11.2021

The Georgian Studies Day is an annual event, held since 1987 by the School of Life Sciences at the University of

Westminster, that aims to provide the British public with information on current political, economic and cultural developments in Georgia.

The conference was held under the auspices of the Embassy of Georgia to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

This year's edition brought together diplomats, government officials, academics and businesses from both Georgia and the UK around the topic of ‘The Restoration of Georgian Independence:

30 Years On'. The event opened with an address given by the President of Georgia, Ms Salome Zourabichvili, and was convened by Dr Tamara Dragadze, Dr Nina Porakishvili and Professor Peter M Lydyard of Westminster University.

During his speech, Mr Kipiani briefly reviewed the past 30 years of Georgia's independence and the milestones along its path towards the European Union—particularly the 2014 Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement and the adoption of a visa-free regime in 2017. Mr Kipiani also emphasized Georgia's efforts to adapt its domestic legal framework to European standards and norms as a key pillar of Georgia's integration with European fora, as well as Tbilisi's declared aspiration to join Euro-Atlantic security and defence structures.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/553/jeoqesis-tavmjdomare-viqtor-yifiani-sityit-tsarsdga-vestminsteris-universitetis-qartvelologiis-dghestan-dakavshirebul-yoveltsliur-konferenciaze>

The Geocase and General Shalikashvili Foundation representatives conducted the presentation to high school students at the invitation of the American Corner at the National Palace

Date: 16.11.2021

Within the framework of the memorandum signed between Geocase and the National Palace, at the invitation of the American Corner, representatives of Geocase and General Shalikashvili Foundation conducted the presentation to high school students on the topic: "General Shalikashvili and Georgian-American Military Cooperation".

Doctor of Military Sciences, Major-General (retired), Vakhtang Kapanadze led the lecture. A number of other interesting events are planned to be held within the mentioned memorandum in the future.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/552/mostsavle-akhalgazrdobis-erovnul-sasakhlis-amerikuli-kutkhis-mitsvevit-jeoqesis-da-general-shalikashvilis-fondis-tsarmomadgenlebma-ufrosklaseltatvis-leqcia-gamartes>





Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase,
Spoke at the ANKASAM International
Conference

Date: 08.11.2021

Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase,
spoke at the international conference -
'Searching for Integration in The

Shadow of The Global Power Struggle & The Turkish World' - organized by the Ankara Centre for Crises and Policy Studies (ANKASAM).

The conference consisted of various sessions and focused on the topics such as the importance of Eurasian geopolitics and the Turkic world in the global power struggle; reflections of developments centered in Afghanistan; regional security issues; security of energy and trade routes; the importance and opportunities of regional cooperation; Belt-Road Initiative, and more.

During his presentation, Victor Kipiani reviewed the aftermath of the 2nd Nagorno-Karabakh war in light of the regional context. He stressed that the new world order will be very heavily hinged and premised on regional orders.

Victor Kipiani briefly discussed the geopolitical consequences of the conflict and what kind of advantages as well as challenges it brought to all stakeholders namely Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Russia, and Iran.

According to him, as a result of the war, we are witnessing re-contouring the shape of the South Caucasus equilibrium formed after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/548/viqtor-yifiani-krizisebisa-da-politikis-kvlevis-ankaris-centris-mier-organizebul-saertashoriso-konferenciaze-mokhsenebit-tsarsdga>

Geocase Organizes Online Discussion ‘Georgia and the Modern Global Economy’

Date: 19.10.2021

Geocase has organized the online discussion on ‘Georgia and the Modern Global Economy’. The purpose of the event was to review the development of global economic trends and to define the role of Georgia in the modern global economic system.



The event was moderated by Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase. At the beginning of the discussion, Victor Kipiani focused on two main constituents of the modern economic structure, as well as growing regionalization and some kind of convergence of industrial, trade and investment policies.

Among the distinguished speakers of the event were: Amb. David Aptsiauri, Director on Economic Policy at Geocase, Professor of Tbilisi State University, Lado Papava, and Kakha Gogolashvili, Director of the Center for European Studies at the Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS).

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/532/jeoqesis-organizebit-onlain-gankhilva-saqartvelo-datanamedrove-globaluri-ekonomika-gaimarta>



Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase, spoke at the Pre-COP26 Conference in Tbilisi

Date: 17.10.2021

Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase, was invited to speak at the Pre-COP26 Conference organized by the Embassy of the United Kingdom and the Embassy of Italy in Georgia in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Georgia.

The Pre-COP26 conference focused on commitments to, and risks and opportunities in, the fight against climate change and for environmental protection. It aimed to deepen knowledge

and facilitate discussion on climate change in all its facets. Through the engagement of Georgian authorities, distinguished experts and the local diplomatic community, in addition to qualified representatives of civil society and the academic world, with a view to fostering awareness by the Georgian public about the aforementioned issues.

The conference was opened by Levan Davitashvili, Vice Prime Minister and the Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia.

Victor Kipiani conducted his presentation at the panel discussion entitled ‘#SecurEnvironment: Climate & Security across the Euro-Atlantic Area and Beyond’ moderated by Mr Nicola Iorio, Deputy Head of Mission, Italian Embassy in Georgia. Among the panelists also were Prof. Andrea Margelletti, Chairman of Centro Studi Internazionali (Ce.S.I.– Roma); Mr. Giorgi Chikovani, General Director of the Georgian Energy Development Fund (GEDF); Mr. Tornike Parulava, Director of Security Policy and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia.

During his speech, Victor Kipiani overviewed the consequential risks and destabilizing factors of the climate change at regional and global levels.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/529/jeoqesis-tavmjdomare-viqtor-yifiani-gaero-s-klimatis-cvlilebis-rigit-26-e-konferenciaze-sityvit-tsarsdga>

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze delivered an online lecture on NATO



Date: 13.10.2021

Information Center on NATO and EU organized online discussions on NATO-related issues for the municipal staff members of Mtskheta-Mtianeti, Dusheti and Akhalgori.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze, Director of American and Euro-Atlantic Studies at Geocase delivered an online lecture for 40 municipal staff members. She spoke about the history of the North Atlantic Alliance, principles and objectives of NATO. Dr. Khatuna Burkadze paid special attention to the importance and steps of Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze stated that: "Georgia's cooperation with the Alliance contains all the practical instruments to prepare for the membership, including the Annual National Program, NATO-Georgia Commission and the Substantial NATO-Georgia Package. The promise of the Bucharest Summit should be delivered in the future. It is important not only for Georgia but also for NATO and regional security".

The online lecture was held in the framework of the project on raising awareness of the regional population about Georgia's Western integration funded by the U.S. Department of State. The Information Center on NATO and EU is implementing this project through the support of the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/653/dr-khatuna-burkadze-delivered-an-online-lecture-on-nato>



Georgia and Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Japan's Perspective

Date: 21.09.2021

The online event "Georgia and Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Japan's Perspective" was organized by the

think-tank Geocase.

Mr Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase, addressed the audience with a welcome note, and H.E. Mr Imamura Akira, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia, delivered opening statements.

Within the virtual event, our special guest and distinguished speaker, Dr. Ken JIMBO, Professor at the Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University, Japan, and Mr Emil Avdalani, Director of Middle East Studies, Geocase, spoke about Modern Japan's foreign policy and the security issues in Indo-Pacific through FOIP optics.

Watch the webinar:

[https://www.facebook.com/events/951342045416138/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D\]%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/951342045416138/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D]%7D)

Track 2 Conclave on India-Georgia Relations

Date: 16.09.2021

Geocase, in cooperation with Tillotoma Foundation, a global Indian think tank, held a virtual event entitled ‘Track 2 Conclave on India-Georgia Relations’.



Among the distinguished speakers of the event were: Ambassador Achal Kumar Malhotra, Former Indian Ambassador to Georgia and Armenia, Dr Emil Avdaliani, Director of Middle East Studies, Geocase, Dr Meena Singh Roy, Head, West & Central Asia Centre, Tillotoma Foundation, and Mr Baqar Palavandishvili, Deputy Chairman, Geocase.

Ms Tanisha Acharya of the Tillatoma Foundation and Mr Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase, co-moderated the event.

The main topics of the conclave included cultural, political, regional and economic aspects of the India-Georgia bilateral cooperation as well Indian policy issues in the South Caucasus.

<https://www.geocase.ge/en/news/516/jeoqesisisa-da-saertashoriso-analitikuri-organizaciiis-tillotoma-foundation-is-ertoblivi-organizebit-saqartvelo-indoetis-urtiertobebis-shesakheb-onlain-ghonisdzieba-gaimarta>

Watch the webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QlvUVdp97Ek>



Regional Powers and their Policies in the South Caucasus

Date: 28.07.2021

The joint seminar entitled ‘Regional Powers and their Policies in the South Caucasus in the aftermath of the 2nd Nagorno Karabakh War’ was organized in the framework of the cooperation between Geocase, Tbilisi based think tank, and Al Jazeera Center for Studies, an independent research institution.

The aim of the webinar was to discuss the specifics of the 2nd Nagorno Karabakh war and its impact on the South Caucasus countries as well as on the whole region in terms of economic, security, and geopolitical relations.

The discussions were moderated by Al Jazeera Center for Studies. Among the event participants were Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase; Emil Avdaliani, Director of Middle East Studies at Geocase; Haoues Taguia, Researcher at Al Jazeera Centre for Studies; Watheq Al-Sadoon, Researcher at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies (ORSAM) in Ankara.

<https://www.geocase.ge/en/news/493/jeoqeisisa-da-aljaziras-kvleviti-centris-ertoblivi-organizebit-onlain-seminari-gaimarta>

Watch the webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYcfG5oC420>

Israel in the aftermath of the recent Gaza conflict

Date: 17.06.2021

The online event “Israel in the aftermath of the recent Gaza conflict” was organized by the think-tank Geocase. The discussion was



moderated by Mr. Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase. In the framework of the Geocase webinar series, H.E. Ran Gidor, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Israel to Georgia, and Dr. Emil Avdaliani, Director of Middle East Studies of Geocase, discussed important factors of Israel's domestic and foreign policy, current situation, and the recent change of Government in Israel amid fierce military confrontation and conflict in Gaza.

<https://www.geocase.ge/en/news/471/jeoqeisis-vebinarebis-seriis-farglebshi-onlain-diskusia-israeli-ghazas-bolodroindeli-konfliqtis-shemdeg-gaimarta>

Watch the webinar: <https://bit.ly/3iXzbwx>



Japan's Foreign Policy

Date: 24.05.2021

The online discussion 'Japan's Foreign Policy' was moderated by Viktor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase. The lecture was delivered by H.E. Mr.

IMAMURA Akira, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Georgia.

Watch the webinar:

<https://www.facebook.com/108406603903685/posts/544056533672021/?d=n>

Situation in the East of Ukraine, Threat from Russia and the Impact of the Current Developments

Date: 29.04.2021

The online discussion "Military-Political Situation in

Eastern Ukraine, the Threat from Russia and the Impact of Current Events on the South Caucasus" was moderated by Viktor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase.

Kipiani stressed the importance of the developments in Ukraine and the existence of a common threat from Russia to the entire Caucasus region as well as Georgia in particular.

Among the distinguished speakers of the event were: Mr Andriy Zagorodnyuk, Chairman of the Board of the Center for Defense Strategies, Minister of Defence of Ukraine (2019-2020), Mr Ihor Kabanenko, Admiral (Ret.), Military Representative of Ukraine to NATO (2006-2007), First Deputy Chief of Defence of Ukraine (2012 – 2013), Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine (2014), Mr Viktor Muzhenko, General of the Army of Ukraine, Chief of the General Staff and the Commander of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (2014-2019), candidate of Military Sciences, Mr Sergey Savchenko, Major General of the Reserve, Head of the Center for Analytical Research and Countering Hybrid Threats, ATO participant (2014-2016), Advisor to the Head of the Security Service of Ukraine (2016-2019), and Mr Vakhtang Kapanadze, Major General (Ret.), Research Fellow at Geocase, former Chief of Staff at the Ministry of Defense and Military Representative of Georgia to NATO and EU.



<https://bit.ly/3JYdlEo>

Watch the webinar:

https://www.facebook.com/events/511973643168359/?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D%7D



Geocase online discussion series: “The Impact of the Pandemic on e-Commerce”

Date: 16.04.2021

An online event - “The Impact of the Pandemic on e-Commerce” was organized by the think tank Geocase.

The discussion was moderated by Professor Khatuna Burkadze, Ph.D., Director of American and Euro-Atlantic Studies at Geocase.

During the discussion, Dr. Burkadze focused on the need to develop new approaches to the challenges of the pandemic, which would help the business sector in the process of digital adaptation and will contribute to the development of the digital economy in the future.

Acting Business Ombudsman of Georgia Nino Kvetenadze noted during the discussion that in 2020 the demand for e-commerce will triple due to the pandemic and existing restrictions.

Nikoloz Popkhadze, Director of optimo.ge and adapter.ge, spoke about platforms created during the pandemic, as well as of the new opportunities and challenges for the business sector, especially for small and medium-sized businesses.

Bakar Palavandishvili, Deputy Chairman of Geocase, spoke about the e-Commerce Legislative Framework Project and the EU4Digital initiative, which aims to develop the e-commerce sector and help bring the digital markets of the EU and Eastern Partnership countries together.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/400/jeoqesis-organizebit-onlain-diskusia-pandemiis-gavlana-eleqtronul-komerciaze-gaimarta>

Presentation of Geocase policy document held in Exhibition Hall of National Library of Parliament

Date: 02.04.2021

On April 2, 2021, the four-section package of recommendations - “Health, Economy, Education, National Defense

and Security” was presented in the Exhibition Hall of the National Parliamentary Library of Georgia by members of the think tank, Geocase.



The development of this package of recommendations was created as a response to conditions created by the pandemic. The authors of the document studied the current situation in the fields of health, economy, education, national defense and security against the background of the challenges posed by the pandemic, and developed relevant proposals and recommendations.

The aim was to offer the Parliament and Government of Georgia qualitatively new approaches to the further development of the country in relation to changes to be implemented in all four key areas.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/408/jeoqesis-politikis-dokumentis-tsardgena-parlamentis-erovnuli-bibliotekis-sagamofeno-darbazshi-gaimarta>



Geocase online discussion series: ‘The U.S. – Georgia: From Strategic Partners to Strategic Allies’

Date: 06.03.2021

The online event ‘The U.S. – Georgia: From Strategic Partners to Strategic Allies’ was organized by the Georgian

think tank Geocase. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Victor Kipiani, Chairman of Geocase, and Professor Dr. Khatuna Burkadze, Research Fellow at Geocase.

During discussion Mr. Victor Kipiani focused on the changing security environment in the region and the stages that will facilitate the transition from a strategic partnership to a strategic alliance.

In this regard, Mr. Victor Kipiani stressed, that ‘Georgian-American relations today have all the implications to deepen strategic ties as strategic allies.

Mr. Kakhaber Kuchava mentioned that ‘President Biden's administration has strong support for NATO's open-door policy, which gives us a reason to think about the possibility of achieving a very high goal, which is our long-standing choice. Our country has great support from all sides, they know the merits of the Georgian side in the NATO missions and strengthening the alliance, but, of course, the U.S. support is of particular importance in this regard. The main goal of our country is to restore the territorial integrity of the state, for that we need a strong economy, strong strategic partners to finally achieve the goal with our strength,’ - said Mr. Kakhaber Kuchava.

Professor Dr. Khatuna Burkadze proposed that it is important to overcome the internal and external challenges by deepening strategic partnership with the United States. Dr. Burkadze noted, that ‘the current changes in the region have clearly shown the need to develop new initiatives. In particular, we may consider the need to establish a Georgian-American joint center focused on overcoming and countering hybrid challenges. Especially against the background of daily cyber-attacks, anti-Western propaganda, disinformation and other hybrid threats. In this context, we can think the other option that means to create the same center under the auspices of NATO with the support of the U.S. and other members of the Alliance.’

‘Under the administration of President Joseph Biden, I believe that our relations will deepen. Particularly, we can transform our strategic partnership in order to officially become strategic allies. At the same time, the multidimensional U.S. support for Georgia is noteworthy,’ - underlined Professor Dr. Khatuna Burkadze.

Furthermore, H.E. David Bakradze discussed the current and future prospects of cooperation between the two countries in the field of defense and security. Ambassador Bakradze focused on the Georgian Defense Readiness Program developed on the basis of the Defense and Security Memorandum in 2016, which aims to strengthen Georgia's defense capabilities. ‘The field of defense and security is the direction in which the United States and Georgia act as true allies, despite the status that may not yet be officially established in this regard. That is, the NATO alliance and not NATO member alliance. In terms of security, we are close partners, in this regard, we have shown our commitment to global security at the cost of blood. So, I think our friendship and alliance has an important future ahead,’ - said H.E. David Bakradze.

The Chair of Geocase, Mr. Victor Kipiani, concluded that the role of the United States in the formation of the modern state of our country is unique: ‘undoubtedly, our relationship has become richer, our role has grown, it has become more fruitful. It is on the basis of past achievements that the future must be built. That is why these relations must move from a strategic partnership to a strategic alliance.’

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/372/jeoqesis-organizebit-onlain-diskusia-ashsh-saqartvelo-strategiuli-partniorobidan-strategiul-mokavshireobamde-gaimarta>

Online discussion "Legal and Political Consequences of the Historic Decision of the Strasbourg Court" held by Geocase

Date: 01.03.2021

The online discussion "Legal and Political Consequences of the Historic



Judgment of the Strasbourg Court" was organized by the Georgian think tank Geocase with the aim of analyzing the legal strategy for Georgia's victory of the August 2008 war case in the European Court of Human Rights.

The Chair of Geocase, Victor Kipiani, acted as a moderator during the online discussion. At the beginning of the discussion, Kipiani focused on the importance of the issue.

"This decision will be a kind of a guideline for our political and legal struggle until the occupation of our country ends and international law is restored," Kipiani said.

Giorgi Nakashidze, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Georgia in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, a former adviser to the Georgian government on the Georgia v. Russia case, said that the decision of the Strasbourg Court of Human Rights was indeed historic, as de-occupation and non-recognition policies were now legally founded and were no longer just the assessments made by the Georgian side based on the facts. Nakashidze spoke about the five-point strategy used by Russia in the legal dispute process and the consequences of the court decision. The details of the new complaint of continuous occupation were also discussed, which refer to the violations of the rights of Georgian citizens during the "borderization" process, including the Otkhozoria-Tatunashvili cases.

"The European Court of Human Rights has concluded that the de facto regimes are so dependent on Russia that they are in reality effectively under Russian control, so any violations in this area are automatically attributed to Russia, which is one of the great achievements of the Georgian side. This has been written in our legislation since 2010 and now it has been strengthened in international law as well," said Nakashidze.

Oleg (Bacho) Tortladze, a researcher at Geocase, spoke about the importance of the Strasbourg Court ruling. He stated that for the protection of the state's territorial integrity, this result is a precondition for Georgia to step up legal action against Russia on the facts of the occupation and the violation of human rights.

"Up until now, Georgia could only rely on international resolutions and partners; now there is a lever in place, which significantly strengthens the legal position of the country in terms of recognizing Georgia's military occupation and, likewise, non-recognition of the occupied territories. The circumstances established in the decision of the European Court of Human Rights show a strong prospect of resumption of the dispute in the International Court of Justice. Furthermore, the recognition of the right of internally displaced persons to return, together with the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly, strengthens the legal framework."

"As a result of the historic decision of the Strasbourg Court, a new stage for the de-occupation of the country must commence, in order to free our country from barbed wire and restore its territorial integrity, which is the axis and cornerstone of the state's stability," said Khatuna Burkadze, Professor of International Law.

"It is necessary to develop a new strategy to start a new phase of de-occupation. This strategy should be developed on the basis of a common consensus and agreement, and should be based on an in-depth analysis of the environment both within the country and internationally, including recent developments in the region and the global crisis and the challenges posed by the pandemic," Burkadze stated.

The Chair of Geocase, Victor Kipiani, noted in conclusion that Georgia should make every effort to inform the international community as soon as possible about the legal and political consequences of the historic decision of the Strasbourg Court.

"We need to better inform the international community, in the wake of which we need to break the Russian machine that is spreading misinformation," Kipiani said.

<https://geocase.ge/en/news/368/jeoqesis-organizebit-onlain-diskusia-strasburgis-sasamartlos-istoriuli-gadatsyvetilebis-samartlebrivi-da-politikuri-shedegebi-gaimarta>

Interviews and publications

Victor Kipiani - Chairman, Geocase



A short letter regarding the approaching NATO summit and anticipating future summits

Date: 09.06.2021

According to Victor Kipiani, the efforts of the modern Georgian state and society to strive towards full integration with Euro-Atlantic political, economic and defense

unity are unprecedented. In the process of European and Euro-Atlantic rapprochement, our country is therefore a good example for others of consistent objectives, a commitment to principles and trustworthiness for partners.

Victor Kipiani underlined: “We believe that it is time for us and our Western partners to finally “find” each other in the region and to let our interests overlap in a meaningful way. According to any sound geopolitical opinion, pseudo-ethnic conflicts and technical reasons that leave issues hanging in the air for an uncertain amount of time only block the path towards closer links with additional obstacles and make perspectives vague. Uncertainty such as this emboldens domestic criticism and encourages adversaries abroad.”

Please read the full version: <https://geocase.ge/en/publications/460/mokle-tserili-nato-s-moakhloebuli-samitis-da-samomavlod-skhva-samitebis-molodinshi>

On Specific Issues – So Simple, Yet So Complex

Date: 18.02.2021

„Today’s system of interstate relations, namely the aspiration of a state to influence and spread its interests over others, has been based on an elemental “instinct” for several centuries now. Judging by the reality in the world today, this cause of global order (or disorder) is not



anticipated to be removed of its priority status, revision, or reassessment in the near future. It is an inexorable constant that the imminent attitude of unceasing competition (which Thomas Hobbes distinguished among the people and explained in his teaching) remains the main determinant among subjects of international relations between states,” noted Victor Kipiani in his article.

Victor Kipiani underlined: „This period requires great effort from both us and our allies, an objective assessment of the circumstances, and strong leaders. Clearly, the expectations of a Hegelian “historical leader” are superfluous, especially in the modern era of poor political talent. But the ability and knowledge – to correctly identify an already established or approaching historical moment – is what is essential for steering the process.“

Please read the full version: <https://geocase.ge/en/publications/363/calkeul-sakitkhebze-ase-martivsa-da-ase-rtulze>



About Tomorrow – Remembering Yesterday While Bearing in Mind the Present Day

Date: 07.01.2021

“The support of the international community and Georgia’s allies and partners is tremendous for the final success of the Georgian cause. Certainly, along with this support, there are issues that can only be dealt with and resolved by the citizens of our country.

Within the list of such issues, we must follow the established rule and order to be able to single out the main ones based on which the rest are built.

Sure, it is difficult to enumerate all the priorities in one piece as it is a subject of much wider discussion and such discussions are not uncommon in Georgian society nowadays”, highlighted Victor Kipiani in his article.

“It is necessary to establish professional public-official standards once and for all, which excludes the selection and promotion of human resources on the basis of political or party affiliation. Today the situation is relatively better in this respect, although it is still sadly far from a public service culture which is based on a prestigious, trustworthy, and real meritocracy. The dominance of those “adorned with attributes” should end in the country, and the way to

govern the nation – and, consequently, to responsibilities and obligations – should be opened to talented, brilliant, people with genuine intellectual potential. “Brain drain” from the public service should be replaced by a “brain inflow,” emphasized he.

Please read the full version: <https://geocase.ge/en/publications/340/khvalindelze-gushindelis-gakhsenebita-da-dghevandelis-gatvalistsinebit>

Khatuna Burkadze - Director of American and Euro-Atlantic Studies at Geocase and an Alumna of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy



Dr. Khatuna Burkadze – Amidst Russia’s military buildup along Ukraine’s border, the U.S.-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership has to be amended to counter Russian aggression

Date: 22.12.2021

Interpressnews discussed the results of the meeting of NATO

Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Riga, Biden-Putin online meeting and Russia’s dangerous actions with Prof. Dr. Khatuna Burkadze.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze noted: “The Allies reiterated the decision made at the 2008 Bucharest Summit that Georgia and Ukraine will become member states of the Alliance. The NATO membership will provide real security guarantees for Georgia and Ukraine. Before becoming member states of the North Atlantic Alliance, NATO will continue to support both states by political and practical means”.

She underlined: “We should develop result-oriented common agenda with all critical spheres. Also, the implementation of democratic reforms will promote the finalization of the establishment of political institutions based on democratic values and principles. At the same time, Georgia’s conceptual documents - strategies should be focused on achieving tangible results in the security, economic, education and other fields. In this process, Georgia needs the strong support of allies, partners. The Alliance assists Georgia as an aspirant country to meet political, economic and military criteria of the NATO membership”.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze highlighted: “Russia’s aggressive actions represent a threat to Euro-Atlantic security. Because of such actions key values and principles are at risk. The West will use political and economic instruments to deter Russia’s hostile behavior. Also, the Western countries will reinforce their security capabilities. They will continue to assist partners including Georgia and Ukraine as aspirant countries of NATO to strengthen their defense capacities”.

“In the face of Russian aggression, we should enhance our strategic ties with the U.S. and establish new instruments for strengthening security capabilities at a high political level. The creation of such a framework can be considered in the U.S.-Georgia Charter on Strategic Partnership,” added Khatuna Burkadze.

Read the full interview here:

<https://www.interpressnews.ge/en/article/117462-dr-khatuna-burkadze-amidst-russias-military-buildup-along-ukraines-border-the-us-georgia-charter-on-strategic-partnership-has-to-be-amended-to-counter-russian-aggression>

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze - Georgia as a Black Sea littoral state is strategically significant for the West

Date: 29.10.2021

Interpressnews discussed the results of the NATO Defense Ministerial, the importance of



the visit of the U.S. Secretary of Defense to Georgia and Georgia's grand strategy with Prof. Dr. Khatuna Burkadze.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze underlined: “The Defense Ministers of NATO endorsed a new overarching plan to defend allies in crisis and conflict and to protect one billion people from any threat including threats coming from the Russian Federation. Also, the Alliance underscored that the foreign policy course is free from outside interference. According to international law, all states have the right to define foreign policy priorities independently. Therefore, the Russian Federation should respect the choice of sovereign states.”

She mentioned: “Georgia as a Black Sea littoral state is strategically significant for the West. The European tour of the U.S. Defense Secretary has shown it. This visit was important in the regional context as well. After the trip to Georgia, the U.S. Defense Secretary visited Ukraine, Romania, and Brussels within NATO Defense Ministerial. It is crucial to enhance regional cooperation among the Black Sea allies to develop maritime capacities.”

“Overall, Georgia should develop a grand strategy to ensure its interests. Regardless of the challenges through democratic reforms, support of partners and implementation of strategically important projects we will be able to achieve our foreign policy goals on the path of Euro-Atlantic and European integration. The mission is possible if we have the right strategy and we can consolidate appropriate efforts,” added Dr. Khatuna Burkadze.

Read the full interview here:

<https://www.interpressnews.ge/en/article/116457-dr-khatuna-burkadze-georgia-as-a-black-sea-littoral-state-is-strategically-significant-for-the-west>



Dr. Khatuna Burkadze – The implementation of the April 19th Agreement will assist Georgia to achieve its European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations

Date: 16.06.2021

Interpressnews discussed the results of NATO Brussels Summit Communiqué with

Prof. Dr. Khatuna Burkadze.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze mentioned: “The Allies reiterated the decision made at the 2008 Bucharest Summit that Georgia will become a member of the Alliance. At the same time, the Allies welcomed the recent political agreement on the Way Ahead for Georgia and emphasized the importance of its full implementation by all sides. They underlined that this agreement paves the way for the significant reforms that will assist Georgia, an aspirant country, progress in its preparations for membership.”

She underlined: “In the changing international environment, Georgia should obtain a new function for its Euro-Atlantic perspective. In the new era of information and communication technologies, we need to think about the development of our digital policy. In the geopolitical context, we should highlight Georgia’s transit role with the implementation of large-scale projects. This increases interest towards Georgia in the region.” “Simultaneously, we need to implement appropriate reforms for protecting human rights and strengthening democratic

institutions. Georgia needs new visions and approaches to achieve tangible results on its Euro-Atlantic path. Also, it is essential to develop strategic communications with all member states of the Alliance. NATO makes decisions based on the consensus and a key of Georgia's membership in NATO is in the capitals of member states of the Alliance," highlighted Dr. Khatuna Burkadze.

Read the full interview here:

<https://www.interpressnews.ge/en/article/114694-dr-khatuna-burkadze-the-implementation-of-the-april-19th-agreement-will-assist-georgia-to-achieve-its-european-and-euro-atlantic-aspirations>

Amb David Aptsiauri - Director on Economic Policy



Some aspects of the problem of high price over crude oil on the World market and Georgia

Date: 29.11.2021

The article is devoted to the brief analysis of the current situation on the world's energy market caused by sharp jump of the prices on crude oil and

gasoline, as well as the main reasons of this crisis, that harms the promotion and nurturing of the positive trends in development of virus pandemic hit global economy.

The consensus between leading exporter and importer countries is vitally important to overrun the current crisis, including such key players as the United States, China, Russia, Saudi Arabia and others.

In this respect, the agreement between OPEC member plus alliance countries and the United States, China, Japan, India and others is to be reached to stabilize the situation on the market and prevent the possible increase of social protest at national level.

The impact of oil prices crisis is not so strong on energy resources less Georgia, but it can be harmful in the context of increasing prices on gasoline and cause social tensions among customers' community.

Please read the full version: <https://www.geocase.ge/en/publications/564/some-aspects-of-the-problem-of-high-price-over-crude-oil-on-the-world-market-and-georgia>

Impact of Covid-19 crisis on Central Asia with some developments in post pandemic phase (major trends and observations)

Date: 08.10.2021

The publication considers the impact of Covid-19 pandemic crisis on the economic situation in the countries of Central Asia., which play an important



role in the modern international economic cooperation, as a platform for closer business relations between Eastern and Western marketplaces, as well as an increased interest for key players in the world's politics and economics, particularly the United States, European Community, China and Russia.

The introduction in 2021 of new global economic initiatives by the United States and European Union in addition to the Chinese Belt and Road Project creates wider opportunities for global cooperation, at the same time brings certain possible challenges.

In this respect, the range of potential benefits and risks for the countries of Central Asia are briefly considered in the context of global, regional and country levels impact.

Please read the full version: <https://www.geocase.ge/en/publications/526/impact-of-covid-19-crisis-on-central-asian-countries-with-some-developments-in-post-pandemic-phase-major-trends-and-observations>

Emil Avdaliani - Director of Middle East Studies



Much More Than Just Ukraine

Date: 08.12.2021

A failure to prevent further Russian advances into Ukraine will have ramifications across the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

A war scare in Ukraine is a pivotal moment for the West. It tests transatlantic resolve, unity, and the very foundations of NATO. Failure to prevent potential Russian military advances or an unwillingness to respond if such a move occurs will likely cause an accentuation of internal divisions within NATO and the European Union (EU.)

Equally important, the reluctance and hesitation will impact those aspiring to become members of Western organizations or see the West as a balancing foreign policy tool against Russian influence. The escalation around Ukraine is anxiously watched by the wider Black Sea region and the South Caucasus states which feel most vulnerable to Russia's influence. Failure to avert a Russian offensive and most importantly connivance in its effort to browbeat Ukraine will have a profound impact on pro-Western Georgia and Moldova, and will have wider ramifications for the broader Caspian and Central Asia regions.

An aggravating factor is that the public debate on the implications of the Ukraine-Russia standoff is largely muted. For instance, few Georgian politicians (if any) openly ponder what might happen in Ukraine. The reasons vary. The insularity of Georgian politics is certainly one driver. Another is the likely geopolitical motive of avoiding involvement in a struggle where Georgia thinks it might derive little benefit. Yet, perhaps the biggest motivator is the fear of Russian reprisal.

Please read the full version: <https://www.geocase.ge/en/publications/577/much-more-than-just-ukraine>

The article was primarily published by [CEPA](#)



Ukraine is Back on Russia's Agenda

Date: 23.11.2021

There is a growing danger of a major Russian military move into Ukraine. Nevertheless, the constraints remain significant, making a full-scale Russian military endeavour risky. Instead, a limited military incursion with the aim of achieving the decentralisation of Ukraine is more probable.

Ukraine is back on Russia's agenda. Recent months have seen an unusually coordinated set of diplomatic and military moves aimed at testing Kyiv's resolve for self-defence and the West's willingness to support Ukraine's sovereignty. There is a growing belief among analysts that Russia is seriously contemplating making a major move in Ukraine. Tens of thousands of Russian troops amassed along Ukraine's border remain a continuous reminder of what Moscow could do.

Western reactions betray fear and concern. This month, CIA Director Bill Burns visited Moscow, where he warned Russian officials about military steps against Ukraine. UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace has visited Kyiv, while Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov visited Washington to meet US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. Moreover, even generally more reluctant officials in Paris and Berlin warned Russia of 'serious consequences' if an escalation takes place.

Please read the full version: <https://www.geocase.ge/en/publications/562/ukraine-is-back-on-russias-agenda>

The article was primarily published by [*RUSI*](#)



Is Iran Ready for Great Power Competition in the South Caucasus?

Date: 20.10.2021

This geopolitical edifice came down as a result of the 2020 war. Armenia was heavily defeated by an ascendant Azerbaijan, which joined forces with Turkey

to create a new status quo along Iran's northern border. Iran's peace initiatives were spurned both by Armenia and Azerbaijan as well as Russia and Turkey. Russian and, to a smaller degree, Turkish troops are now stationed on Azerbaijani soil. But as a continuation of its pragmatic foreign policy, Iran's then-foreign minister, Javad Zarif, acknowledged and congratulated Azerbaijan on its victory during a visit to Baku in late 2020.

Iran's absence at the negotiating table and in the conflict resolution process is notable. Yet, rather than trying to change this reality by investing in public diplomacy, regional security, and regional infrastructure, Iran has adopted a more aggressive stance in the South Caucasus via aggressive diplomacy and large-scale military drills. This occurred in response to Turkey's strategic alliance in Azerbaijan, which is viewed as providing Ankara with a launchpad for wider Turkish involvement in the Caspian basin and Central Asia. Joint military exercises between Azerbaijan, Turkey, and Pakistan; restrictions and levies imposed by Baku on Iranian trucks which traveled to Armenia; and Israel's established military ties with Azerbaijan have also led to consternation within Tehran.

Please read the full version: <https://www.geocase.ge/en/publications/533/is-iran-ready-for-great-power-competition-in-the-south-caucasus>

The article was primarily published by [*The National Interest*](#)

Nikoloz Khatiashvili - Non-Resident Resear Fellow at Geocase

Nikoloz Khatiashvili, Foreign Policy Non-Resident Research Fellow at Geocase, comments on U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Terrorism

Date: 17.12.2021

Nikoloz Khatiashvili, a Non-Resident Foreign Policy Research Fellow at the analytical organization Geocase, assesses a Country Reports on Terrorism released by the U.S. Department of State.

As he mentions, the report highlights all the challenges and threats of the global terrorism the world faced in the course of 2020. In addition, the document observes the actions and events that have taken place as the U.S., as well as other countries regarding the measures used in fight against terrorism, radicalization, and extremism.

Please read the full version: <https://geocase.ge/en/news/593/nikoloz-khatiashvili-terorizmis-shesakheb-ashsh-is-sakhelmtsifo-departmentis-mier-gamoqveynebul-angarishs-afasebs>



Salome Bladadze - Junior Research Fellow



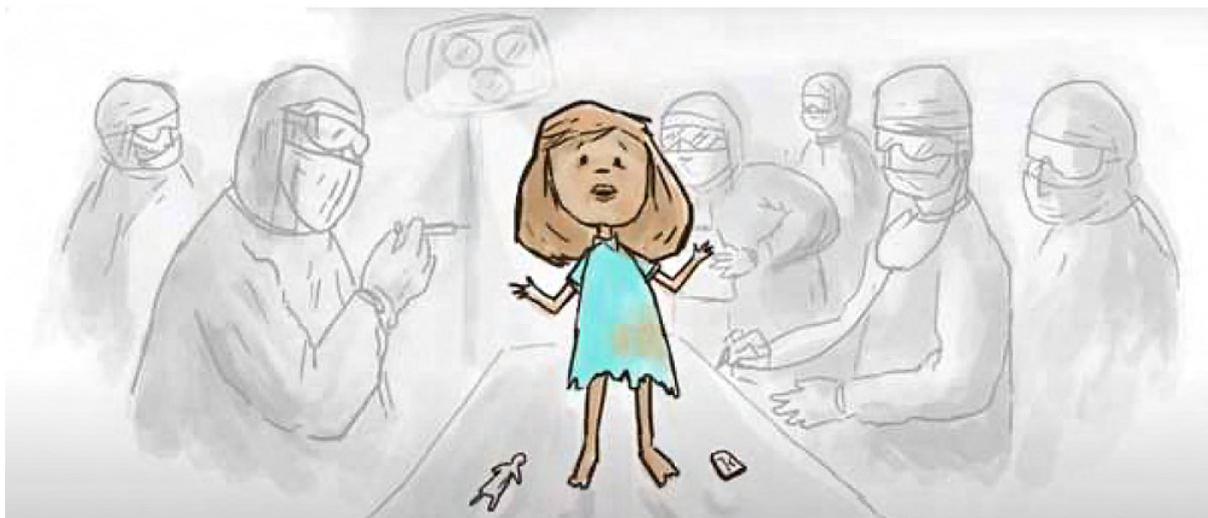
Women in Georgia: Living in Accordance with an Honor Code

Date: 28.12.2021

Women and girls who belong to patriarchal families are living under various types of coercive control. This control can be physically nonviolent as well as physically

violent. The concept and understanding of honor and its norms change over time and can have different meanings in different societies. In societies with an honor-based value system, honor refers to “the regulation of women’s sexuality and their conformity with social norms and traditions”. In Georgia, honor plays a key role in families’ lives and includes not only the women’s own worth but also the worth of the whole family.

Please read the full version: <https://www.geocase.ge/en/publications/637/women-in-georgia-living-in-accordance-with-an-honor-code>



Forensic Age Estimation of Unaccompanied Minor Migrants in the EU

Date: 21.05.2021

Forensic Age estimation (FAE) aims to define the chronological age of person of unknown age because the births may never have been registered or they arrive without being able to document their age. It is important to mention, FAE or any other medical test give doubtful

results and cannot define the exact and accurate chronological age of human being. Nevertheless, due to the absence of identification documents among immigrants, the EU Member State use age assessment to establish whether or not an individual is under 18 years of age and therefore eligible for protection under the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Please read the full version: <https://www.geocase.ge/en/publications/432/forensic-age-estimation-of-unaccompanied-minor-migrants-in-the-eu>



Past the Point of no Return?

Date: 05.02.2021

Global Climate change is one of the most acute problems in the world today. Industrial activities in developed countries have contributed significantly to climate change, yet low-income countries are often the first ones

to pay the price. Due to scarce relevant recourses in the developing world, resiliency against climate change is limited, making developing countries more exposed to climate vulnerability. Georgia is no exception. The small country with a complex mountain relief is already experiencing the adverse consequences of climate change. The increased frequency of natural disasters over the past several years poses a significant threat to society and infrastructure, and thus to the country's stability and development.

Please read the full version: <https://www.geocase.ge/en/publications/355/past-the-point-of-no-return>

Training Program: "Foreign Policy and Security Issues"



The three-month Geocase training course - "Foreign Policy and Security Issues" aimed to raise awareness on foreign and security matters among youngsters and promote their involvement in public activities.

The training course enabled beginner researchers and young people interested in analytical activities to deepen their knowledge and skills in areas such as Euro-Atlantic and European integration, human rights, policy analysis, defense and national security, crisis management, Russian policy in the South Caucasus, hybrid challenges, Covid-19 and eHealth.

During the training course, 7 modules were conducted, which were led by Geocase researchers. Also, during the course, participants had the opportunity to meet and discuss with other highly qualified experts in the field, public officials, and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

Geocase Alumni

Upon successful completion of the Geocase training program, young researchers were given an opportunity to work under the supervision of the Geocase fellows on a variety of important and significant issues during the year. They also had a chance to publish articles with trending and engaging research topics on the official website of the organization: <https://geocase.ge/ka/alumni>

The objective of the Geocase Alumni Network is to support students and to ensure their involvement in ongoing and future analytical projects of Geocase. Additionally, Geocase Alumni Network aims to facilitate the exchange of experience, knowledge, and the formation of long-term professional connections among the members of the network.

Please see the published articles:

- ‘UKUSA - AUKUS – The Anglosphere Together Again’

By Bacha Qiria, Geocase Alumni

Published: 07.12.2021

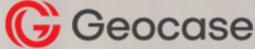
<https://www.geocase.ge/en/publications/575>

Infographics



"More connectivity and interdependence means a major and stronger step towards stability and peace in the wider region"

Victor Kipiani
Chairman



We should develop result-oriented common agenda with all critical spheres. Also, the implementation of democratic reforms will promote the finalization of the establishment of political institutions based on democratic values and principles.

Dr. Khatuna Burkadze
Director of American and Euro-Atlantic Studies





“Eurasian powers strive to build orders of exclusion in Central Asia, the South Caucasus and parts of the Middle East. This means there are consistent efforts to sideline the collective West from participating in peacebuilding and other initiatives for the conflict regions.”

Emil Avdaliani
Director of Middle East Studies