



# VIII GLOBAL BAKU FORUM

“THE WORLD AFTER COVID-19”

## Conference Report

4-6 NOVEMBER 2021

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# THE WORLD AFTER COVID-19 CONFERENCE REPORT



Nizami Gəncəvi Beynəlxalq Mərkəzi

## VIII QLOBAL BAKI FORUMU “COVID-19-dan SONRAKI DÜNYA”

4-6 Noyabr 2021 | Bakı, Azərbaycan

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4-6 NOVEMBER 2021



# VIII GLOBAL BAKU FORUM

<b>300</b>	Participants (275 in person and 25 online)
<b>41</b>	Represented countries
<b>2</b>	Presidents
<b>2</b>	Prime Ministers
<b>19</b>	Former Presidents (6- female/13- male)
<b>12</b>	Former Prime Ministers (2- female/10- male)

## “THE WORLD AFTER

COVID-19” was the central theme of the 8th Global Baku Forum held under the auspices of the President of Azerbaijan H.E Ilham Aliyev and assembling leaders to review critical global, regional and national issues of the day in times of global disruptions raging from pandemics to climate change.

### A SCENE-SETTER

By the end of 2019 a fearsome virus invaded the world. The SARS-Cov-2 caused a terrifying disease, which was identified as COVID-19. It quickly spread to the whole planet and claimed many victims. The world faced the most serious pandemic in a hundred years. It forced most countries to pursue policies of lockdowns and social isolation that have wrought enormous economic dislocations and challenges as well as causing massive mental stress on people. Societies had to confront their built-in inequalities, and the weaknesses of their health infrastructure. Governments that could afford to do it launched massive programs of fiscal support and borrowing. Despite all these measures, the pandemic has already infected close to 200 million persons and claimed over four million lives.

A lightening scientific response has resulted in our possession of a large number of viable vaccines in record time. Gradually, countries are trying to vaccinate their citizens, and progressively reopening the facilities that had been under lockdown. Schools are receiving their students, while shops, restaurants, bars and cafes are welcoming their customers. Escaping from their forced confinement, massive numbers of people who can afford it have started business travel and tour-



ism once again. More explorations of work from home and staggered hours are being tested. And on the whole, in many parts of the world, life is slowly returning to a semblance of normality.

Last year also saw the reintegration of Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) into Azerbaijan. It is time to turn the page in relations between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia, and to build a new future of peace and prosperity for all in the South Caucasus. There is much to do on all sides, but it is important that as we look to the future of the region, that we share a vision of mutually respect for the human rights of all nationals and residents of all countries. This vision will help the people of the South Caucasus to work together to build that shared post- COVID-19 future.

But beyond the specificities in the South Caucasus, there is a widespread global feeling that this pandemic was – and still is – a watershed event in the history of humanity. The countries of the world that seemed poised to commit themselves onto a path towards a sustainable future with the adoption of the SDGs and the Paris Accord in 2015, have suffered a setback on that positive trajectory. Extremely variable performance in the way the leading countries of the world coped with the pandemic, have made clear that old alignments and rankings may no longer be valid. It is this specific historic moment that the Global Baku Forum 2021 will address. From the global scale to the regional and national scale. From the political to the economic, social and cultural realities of the world emerging from that forced passage through societies in the grip of a pandemic. What can we do about each aspect of this emerging reality, and how by thoughtful actions today we can shape the world of tomorrow?

# THE OPENING CEREMONY



The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev attended the opening ceremony of the Forum and declared the 8th Global Baku Forum open.

“(…) The Baku Global Forum has transformed into one of the leading platforms to address urgent and important issues of global politics (…). It’s amazing how in a relatively short period NGIC transformed into one of the very few leading international institutions with the great potential which accumulates the knowledge, experience, and vision of intellectuals, statesmen, politicians, journalists, public figures and members of civil society. So, today’s Global Baku Forum will address urgent issues which are on the agenda. (…). According to the Presidential Decree, this year in Azerbaijan was declared “The Year of Nizami” in commemoration of our great Azerbaijani poet.

The agenda of the Forum is very broad, but I would like to touch upon several issues. First, of course, the pandemic, because it’s now issue number one on the global agenda. We talk about the pandemic, some talk about the post-pandemic period. It’s not very clear whether we are already in the past pandemic period because various countries address this issue differently. I would like to inform you that Azerbaijan from the very outbreak of this disease, of this crisis, took very proactive steps both domestically and internationally. We started vaccination on 18 January this year, one of the first countries in

the region and so far more than 60 percent of the population above 18 received both doses. In a relatively short period, we managed to create 13 new state hospitals with a total number of beds standing at almost 4,000. In general, 46 state hospitals have been allocated to treat pandemic. Now we don’t have a lockdown. The situation is under control. The only restriction is we have to wear masks in the buildings and hopefully we will be able to keep the situation under control. At the same time, we took serious measures to ease the burden of the lockdowns which we had before. We provided a social and economic support package for those who lost jobs, for those who suffered from these lockdowns. The total cost of the package is 2.9 billion US dollars. This money was financed from our state budget, and we will continue to do it because we need to ease the burden of the people who found themselves in a new situation. We are using mainly two vaccines: Sinovac and Pfizer. As I said, the level of vaccination is high and this is, of course, due to the state policy. At the same time, I would also like to mention that we are very happy to see that our population is very responsible. Vaccination is not forceful. We do not have any anti-vaccination campaigns or even any anti-vaccination trends. The people of Azerbaijan realize the importance of vaccination, and it makes our job much easier.



On a global scale, Azerbaijan also took very active steps in its capacity as a current chair of the Cooperation Council of the Turkic-speaking States and the Non-Aligned Movement. Last year we initiated two summits of both institutions in April and May, particularly addressing COVID. At the Summit of Non-Aligned Movement, we launched an initiative to hold the UN General Assembly Special Session on COVID which was supported by an absolute majority of the international community. That Special Session took place on the 3-4 December last year. So, that was our contribution to addressing the global issues. At the same time, we launched the initiative, in the United Nations Human Rights Council, concerning equal and universal access to vaccines and fair distribution of vaccines. We are one of the countries which openly speak about such an issue as vaccine nationalism and the unfair distribution of vaccines

on a global scale. Some countries already had the third vaccination plan and implement these plans. Some countries still have a very low percentage of vaccinated people. Therefore, we need to address this issue to create equal opportunities. At the same time, I would like to say that based on our initiative the database for COVID treatment which has been established with our participation is used by World Health Organization, I mean in the countries of Non-Aligned Movement, which also makes it easier to plan and forecast the support. In the capacity, as a chair of the Non-Aligned Movement, we provided financial and humanitarian support to more than 30 countries and we provided free-of-charge doses of vaccines to several countries. At the same time, we made a voluntary donation to World Health Organization to support poor countries worth ten million US dollars. So, these are the steps which we have undertaken on a global scale, and again, combining of efforts by the international community and, of course, the responsible approach of the leading countries of the world will help to cope with this disease.

Another issue which I would like to raise today is the issue that I had raised at every Baku Global Forum from the first until the last. During all these previous seven fora I raised the issue of conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Today I would like to say that the conflict



is resolved. Azerbaijan resolved the conflict itself. Azerbaijan itself implemented UN Security Council resolutions adopted in 1993, which demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, these resolutions remained on paper for 27 years, and probably, would have remained on paper for another 27 years if Azerbaijan did not itself restore its territorial integrity, using chapter 51 of the UN Charter which provides the right for self-defense using the international legal framework. Because not only UN Security Council, but other leading international institutions adopted similar resolutions and decisions concerning the occupation of Azerbaijan's territories. The United Nations General Assembly, OSCE, Non-Aligned Movement, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, European Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted in different times similar decisions and resolutions concerning the conflict which was fully in line with what we have done last year liberating our territories. Unfortunately, Armenia was trying only to seal the status quo, trying to use the negotiation format only as a tool for freezing the conflict forever. And if in previous years Armenian leadership was pretending that they were willing to work within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group to find the resolution of the conflict which provided for liberation of occupied territories, the last couple of years the Armenian leadership was already announcing that they were not going to give

any centimeter of occupied territories back. There is enough proof of that. It's enough only to mention the statement of the current Armenian prime minister which he made on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan two years ago that "Karabakh is Armenia and period". So, that was the end of negotiations. First, it was a very contradictory and false statement, because, on the one hand, the Armenian leadership was saying that Karabakh is an independent country, though no country in the world, including Armenia itself, recognized it. On the other hand, they were saying Karabakh is Armenia. So, this contradiction demonstrates the contradictory policy of Armenia which led to this miserable defeat that they suffered last year. So, this kind of statement puts an end to any negotiations. I can say that the Minsk Group co-chairs, according to my impressions, were also surprised and embarrassed by that statement, because there was nothing left for them to do. Another statement was made by the then defense minister of Armenia, who was openly threatening Azerbaijan saying that Armenia is preparing for a new war for new territories. An open threat to occupy more territories of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, the international community, including the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs were silent. There was no condemnation. There was not even a message saying that this kind of statement is inappropriate. So, many other statements and acts which the Armenian leadership has undertaken were aimed at provoking Azerbaijan. I can mention the so-called inaugura

tion of the so-called self-proclaimed quasi president of the separatist unit in Shusha which was an open insult to the feelings of Azerbaijanis. I can also say about the decision of Armenia to transfer their so-called parliament of the separatists from Khankandi to Shusha, another insult to the feelings of Azerbaijanis. The Armenian leadership should have understood that they are not in a position to insult the feelings of our people. Every patience has a limit. Then, in July 2020, when they launched open military provocation on the border killing our civilians and military servicemen; August 2020, when they sent a sabotage group to commit acts of terror which were neutralized, and of course, September when they started to shell the peaceful cities and villages of Azerbaijan.

The Second Karabakh War, which we called a Patriotic War, lasted 44 days and ended in the total defeat of the Armenian army. Armenia was forced to accept our terms and conditions. During the first days of the war, I was saying that we are ready to stop when the Armenian prime minister gives me the date of their withdrawal from occupied territories. It took the Armenian leadership almost 7 thousand losses, and 44 days to understand that they were in an absolute disaster. On the night from 9 to 10 November, Armenia signed a capitulation act and the war ended. We kept our word. As soon as they gave us the timetable of the withdrawal from remaining occupied territories the war stopped.

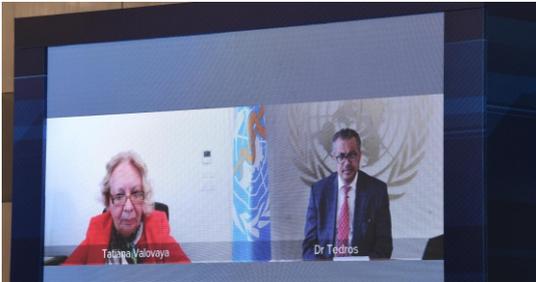
In four days, the people of Azerbaijan will celebrate the first anniversary of our historic victory. What we have seen in the liberated territories is total devastation. Not a single building is left. During the years of occupation, they demolished all historical monuments; 65 mosques out of 67, homes, houses, public buildings et cetera. It is proof of barbarism. Now we are actively restoring the liberated territories, the large-scale restoration program has been launched and I am sure that in a relatively short period we will be able to return former refugees, more than one million people who suffered from Armenian occupation. What the war and the results of the war showed is that sooner or later justice prevails. You must be committed to your cause, be well prepared, have an international legal framework, and have a high level of motivation of the people. So, all those factors including our military capabilities were the main reason for the resolution of the conflict.

Now the conflict is over and as I said, reconstruction has started. Now we are in a post-conflict situation where we made several proposals to Armenia to start working on a peace agreement. Because we don't want to talk about war, we want to talk about peace, we want to talk about the future. Unfortunately, this





proposal is still not answered. At the same time, we proposed to start working on the delimitation and demarcation of our state borders with the recognition of the territorial integrity of both countries. Again, it is in line with the international law norms



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and conforms to normal behavior. This proposal is not addressed either. Azerbaijan demonstrates maximum constructiveness despite all the sufferings of almost 30 years of occupation, despite vandalism and barbarism on the liberated territories. We need to look to the future. We need to make the region safe, predictable, and ready for large-scale cooperation.

There are different proposals about that, probably you heard about them. I think that everything will depend on Armenia's position because our position is absolutely clear. Today, once again, I say that we are ready to start peace talks, we are ready to work on a peace agreement, we are ready to turn the page, we are ready to start border delimitation. But you will see that there will be no answer from Armenia. They keep silent for almost one year. I don't think that they are now in the position to oppose Azerbaijan's constructive proposals. If they listened to us during the years of negotiations, if they behaved like normal human beings, they wouldn't have found themselves in today's situation.

Another issue and the last point which I would like to mention, without taking much of your time. It was a little bit in the shadow of the events of the last year, but it is also very important not only for us but for a broader region - completion of the construction of the Southern Gas Corridor. On 31 December 2020, the last segment of that project the Trans Adriatic pipeline was commissioned. It is a historical achievement for Azerbaijan, for our neighbors, for Europe. Because it's an important factor of European energy security. It's an important instrument of diversification and in the case of the Southern Gas Corridor, it is the diversification of not only the routes but also of sources. A new volume of natural gas from large gas deposits of Azerbaijan is already on the European market. From 1 January this year until 31 October - in 10 months Azerbaijan exported through

these routes more than 14 billion cubic meters of natural gas to 5 countries: Turkey, Georgia, Italy, Greece and Bulgaria. Almost half of this volume was consumed by consumers in the European Union. In those countries where Azerbaijan’s gas is delivered, there is no gas crisis, there is no price crisis, and there is no freezing. So, this demonstrates that the Southern Gas Corridor is a project of energy security of Europe. Azerbaijan as a responsible country, as a producer and exporter now not only of oil but of natural gas, will play in the future a very important role in energy security issues (...)

The Director General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus underlined that “the pandemic has demonstrated the vital importance of multilateralism and solidarity to confront global health threats. However, despite multilateral efforts, inequities persist. Some require urgent action; others entail long-lasting structural changes. In high-income countries, almost two-thirds of the population has been vaccinated with at least one dose of vaccine, while in low-income countries, less than 5% have received a vaccine! WHO’s target is to vaccinate 40% of the population of every country by the end of this year, and 70% by mid-2022 (...). We encourage countries that have already reached the 40% target to give their place in the vaccine delivery queue to COVAX and the African Vaccines Acquisition Trust. And we urge manufacturers to prioritize and fulfil their contracts with COVAX and AVAT as a matter of urgency and be far more transparent about what’s going where. There are four critical areas for action, as we build the world after COVID-19. First, we need stronger governance that is inclusive,



equitable and accountable. That's why we believe the time has come for a legally binding treaty or international agreement, to provide an overarching framework for global health security. Second, we need better financing for global health security. We need a substantial increase in domestic investment, including in primary health care, and in international financing to support low- and lower-middle income countries. Third, we need better systems and tools to prepare for, prevent, detect and respond rapidly to outbreaks with epidemic and pandemic potential. And fourth, we need a strengthened, empowered and sustainably financed WHO at the center of the global health architecture.

The President of Latvia, Egils Levits, "looked forward to a world after COVID-19, where we can once again freely travel and not have to keep our distance. The current situation requires societal discipline, global solidarity, a trust in scientific reason and the professional medical community, and reliable, verified sources of information. No country is strong enough or rich enough to resist the pandemic alone – that was perhaps one of

the most useful lessons from the pandemic. Clearly, we need a multilateral approach for these global challenges, optimally within the United Nations. Multilateralism is the way to crystallize a common approach. A much bigger crisis on our hands – climate change. The antidote to climate change is more expensive, yet even more urgent".

Gordon Brown focussed on mechanisms within an interdependent globalized world in facing today's challenges and, to start, combatting together the Covid pandemic. 5 million deaths have already been registered and 250 million have been infected by the coronavirus with the worrying projections for the years ahead with 200 million additional infections and 5 million more deaths. The world is faced by a two-track pandemic as the fates of the vaccinated and unvaccinated diverge: three quarters of future cases – 140 million – are expected to occur in the unvaccinated lower and middle-income countries outside China. No one is safe until everyone is safe: this is a global problem requiring a global solution. The means of vaccine production are available which now must be shared equitably. Climate change talks also require global cooperation by the rich countries who have not even fulfilled their 2009 promises to transfer \$100 billion per year to the Global South in mitigation and adaptation: nationalism has become the dominant ideology of the age undermining the effectiveness of international multilateral institutions. Most urgently, a G20 coordinator needs to be appointed so that vaccines can get distributed to the poorest countries of the world, including coordination in carbon reductions so that the 1.5°C target is met, the prevention of nuclear proliferation and overcoming global poverty including addressing the debt problem.



IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva noted a recovery path for the world economy in 2021 with a 5,9% growth rate, but the pandemic must first be overcome including discrepancies in vaccination rates which will allow for a lifting of global GDP by \$ 5.3 trillion over the next five years. Resilience needs to be built into the system in order to address future global shocks and notably climate change.

Sefik Dzaferovic stressed that the EU has witnessed no further enlargement over the past eight years. Furthermore, is the EU still a value Union as shown by the rule of law debates in its midst? Notwithstanding these developments, the West Balkans need to be integrated into the EU albeit its crises which create destabilization in the region: weapons are returning threatening peace in Bosnia Herzegovina. All Dayton Peace advances have stalled. The post-Covid world looks gloomy - with the highest Covid rate in Europe in Republika Srpska -- but the future of Bosnia rests on future EU and NATO memberships. Binali Yildirim heralded, after the end of the Nagorno- Karabakh war, the need for deeper cooperation in infrastructure projects linking Central Asia, the Caucasus and Europe which Turkey promotes. Crises can be managed but not uncertainty which is one of the tasks of the Summit of Turkic Speaking Peoples. The vision of the director of the International Olympic Committee was read out by Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic spelling out five trends for a post-pandemic world. Global solidarity is waning with health, vaccines and science becoming politicized; digitalization is on the march; sustainable development and fulfilling the SDGs have become a priority to address the climate crisis; credibility is put into question with an implosion of trust and the absence of open-minded discussions; economic and financial resilience at times of profit-driven capitalism is over: maximum value, in contrast to profit, must become the hallmark of policies for the citizens. Tatyana Valovaya, Director-General UN Office at Geneva, thanked the Nizami Ganjavi International Center for its special sensitivity in discussing issues of concern to the planet. She noted that COVID-19 highlights social inequality in the world and stressed the need to strengthen the efforts of the international community to successfully address this problem. She spoke about the measures taken to cope with the tasks of the UN in this

direction. Co-Chair of the NGIC Vaira Vike-Freiberga stressed that the world's problem is not only COVID-19, but also global climate change. Prevention of existing problems depends on joint discussions and joint efforts. Global Baku Forum is a place where we are trying to find solutions.

### The message of HH Pope Francis

*Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Participants of the VIII Global Baku Forum*

*One happy occasion of the VIII Global Baku Forum, which will take place in the city of Baku from 4 to 6 November, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, is pleased to send his best wishes to all participants.*

*The Supreme Pontiff joins his thoughts and prayers to the work of the meeting, which aims to examine carefully various issues related to the diffusion of the COVID-19 virus and to discuss ways and, aims to address the most urgent global challenges.*

*The celebration of the Forum coincides with the 880th anniversary of both Nizami Ganjavi, known as "The Dante of the Caucasus", in whose honour the year 2021 has been declared "The Year of Nizami" and whose literary work is an element of unity for region.*

*The Holy Father hopes that this edition of the Forum may contribute concrete and effective pathway that may be put to the service of the world community, as well as to strengthen the commitment to seeking the common good, international cooperation, dialogue and mutual respect.*

### The message of Prime Minister of the UK

*Dear President Aliyev,*

*I am delighted to send my best wishes to you and the participants in this year's Global Forum. I hope that this year's event is as successful as its predecessors.*

*As we approach the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and Azerbaijan, our bilateral cooperation is stronger than ever. We remain your biggest investor, but our relationships goes far beyond that.*

*The United Kingdom very much welcomes Azerbaijan's growing role on the world stage.*

*Not only in Azerbaijan a leading partner in combatting the use of chemical weapons and tackling drug smuggling, but it was thanks to support from Azerbaijan troops that we were able to secure Kabul airport to enable thousands of eligible people to depart in August.*

*We are grateful for Azerbaijan's partnership and look forward to strengthening it further as we tackle the international challenges you will address in the Global Forum, together.*

*The biggest international challenge facing us all is climate change. As you know, this year's forum takes place alongside COP26 which I have been grateful for Azerbaijan's involvement in. Increasing the role of renewable energy in Azerbaijan is an important step towards this common goal. I know that BP, your strategic partner for the past 27 years, is ready to support this transition.*

*The United Kingdom is a staunch supporter of peace and stability in the Caucasus region. We continue to contribute expertise and financial support to address post-conflict challenges, including through Azerbaijani and UNDP de-mining programmes. I encourage you and the countries of the region to take steps towards signing the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, which will help strengthen the foundations of a stable future for the region.*

*I'm pleased that the Minister for Europe and the Americas, Wendy Morton was able to visit Azerbaijan earlier this year. She is a strong voice in advocating for the role of women in Azerbaijan and ensuring our two great countries work effectively together for the benefit of all our citizens. As we work to build back better – from COVID and from conflict – I encourage all countries to build in a particular role for women in peacebuilding. Adoption of National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security is a crucial first step.*

*The United Kingdom is, and will continue to be, a steadfast partner for Azerbaijan. I look forward to the continued development of our partnership in the years ahead.*





## Presentation of the books dedicated to the 880<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Nizami Ganjavi

During the welcome dinner of VIII Global Baku Forum the Co-Chairs of the Center presented the books titled “Nizami Ganjavi’s Seven Beauties and Other Essays on Literature” was written by Vaira Vike-Freiberga and “Nizami Ganjavi: The Poet and the Sage” was written by Ismail Serageldin to celebrate the “Year of Nizami Ganjavi” as declared by His Excellency Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of

Azerbaijan in 2021 in the 880th anniversary of one of the greats of world literature Nizami Ganjavi.

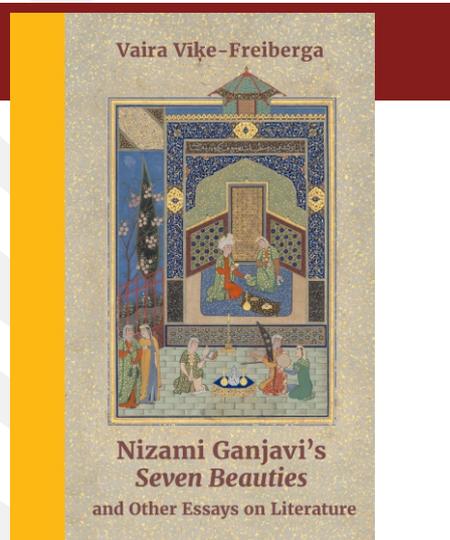
The book incorporates 3 parts and 7 chapters by being the first part dedicated to the Nizami Ganjavi’s poem of Seven Beauties and followed by the second part as oral and literary poetry which includes Linear and Cyclic time in traditional and modern Latvian poetry and “The poppy blossom, from my native land”: The married woman as exile in Latvian folk poetry. The third part encompasses the narrative prose by being four



“Nizami Ganjavi's Seven Beauties and Other Essays on Literature”

By Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia 1997-2007; Co-Chair, NGIC

chapters dedicated to the folktales such as “The devil in Latvian folktales”, “La geste d’Asdiwal” and other North American myths, “On Mordwin and South Ostyak” folklore in German translation and narrative structures, fate and history in the Latvian historical novel “Kauguriestī”.



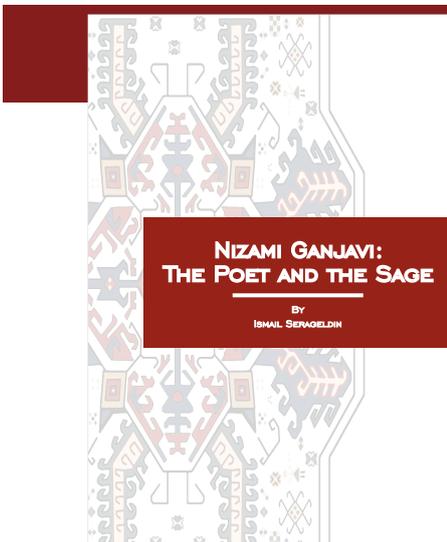


This book tries to address the fact that beyond the poetry and the art there was also a profound thinker, a

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sage what we call a hakeem and that it is partly his reflection on the values of openness and diversity is a recognition of our common humanity.

Nizami Ganjavi was a man of exceptional virtue, exceptional enlightenment and almost nine centuries ago he upheld values that are still relevant to our day. He did not want to be in the court of the ruler around the power of the ruler he lived in Ganja and was away only for one year. He is a man worthy of our reflection and our study, he speaks to us across space and time.



**“Nizami Ganjavi: The Poet and the Sage”**

*by Ismail Serageldin, Vice President, World Bank 1992-2000; Co-Chair, NGIC*



# PANEL I

## THE EMERGING POST-COVID-19 GLOBAL ORDER

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*The first panel was invited to explore the many questions including the emergence of a new political landscape in the post COVID-19 era; Post conflict management; Global governance; Peace and security; China and its changing role in the world; the G-7 and the G-20; The future of global security and the role of NATO, Russia and China; Economic Growth and Global Trade; Inequality; Human Rights; The Environment and sustainable economic growth; Conflict over natural resources; Leadership in confronting climate change; and developing a new multilateralism to confront the global challenges before us.*



The moderator, Yves Leterme of Belgium, cautioned the participants at the outset in defining today's world as "post-Covid": the pandemic is far from having been overcome which will require additional tackling of the crisis including fair distribution of vaccines worldwide, the negative impact on the global economy at times of change with an incoming new U.S. Administration, China with its new Five Year Plan and Western withdrawal from Afghanistan not to omit climate change and its rising emergencies, and EU tensions in flux after Brexit. With ongoing crises worldwide, a new global order requires novel roles given to multilateral organizations.

The discussion opened with the question on whether the UN System is still fit for purpose? Amre Moussa stressed that without renovating the Security Council there will be no change in the UN System. Defining threats to international peace and security have changed with new weighty issues on the global agen-



da like climate change and pandemics. Element of uncertainty defines today's world as well as symptoms of an emerging Cold War. This requires a new model of non-alignment led by Europe and middle powers. Volkan Bozkir, a former President of UNGA, underlined that the LDCs were the hardest hit by the pandemic: a multilateral approach led by WHO is required for vaccine distribution. On political aspects, the UNSC is locked and blocked which inhibits any UN progress. The way ahead is for the UNGA to work in balance with the UNSC. Former Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim noted the major differences within the UN after World War II when compared to today: the bipolar world has ceded to a multipolar fractured world. The UN system is no longer able to respond effectively to current global challenges and, to start, the P5 system must change: trust and reliability are sorely lacking. Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov underlined positive involvement of the UN Security Council in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with its multiple resolutions, but problems persisted over three decades on their implementation. On the pandemic front, the minister invited the UN to prepare as of now recommendations for a post-Covid world. President Vaira Vike-Freiberga from Latvia highlighted the role of the EU as a regional player on the world scene but also as a forceful promoter of universal human goals such as the SDGs. The current structure of the UN system and notably its Security Council is archaic in need of urgent and dire reform. The EU and its Member States providing the world's largest share in development aid can in many areas remain a beacon of hope and an example that solutions can be found to the challenges of the day. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Ouided Bouchamaoui noted a now open world requiring



new global governance with an inclusive approach for the emerging countries including Africa where education, the youth and women emancipation must top the international agenda. To start, civil society must be more heavily involved in UN reform efforts. Wang Chao from China called for the need, at this historic crossroad, to build a new post-pandemic world order based on peace and development with true multilateralism at its core and globalization continuing to hold the key to economic growth. On UN's role, China stresses its vital importance in facing global challenges and must be strengthened whilst recognizing the need for reform without weakening the UN Charter. Reasonable reform of the Security Council must be contemplated so that its authority, representativeness and effectiveness be enhanced: a package solution is needed.

# PANEL II

## THE NEW WORLD ECONOMY

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*The pandemic has exposed the large inequalities both within and between countries. It has also underlined the limited resilience of many economies. While a number of powerful countries are set to bounce back to a significantly better growth path, it is not clear that the economies that we are going towards will be more equal than in the past. We note, for example that the US billionaires' wealth went up 35% from \$3.4 trillion when markets opened on January 1, 2020, (just as Covid-19 was beginning to take the world by storm), in other words. they have gotten about \$1.2 trillion richer during the pandemic. So, what would these inequalities be like in the future? What about the disparities between countries? Furthermore, trade was an important part of the efforts at globalization in the past, until the Trump Administration started imposing tariffs even on allies of the US. We should reflect on how we can improve the trade regimes so that all – including the workers in every country – benefit. Economic theory says that benefits are there, political reality says that the benefits will be difficult to distribute towards the poor.*



N/A	62.25%	6	52.37%
N/A	50.53%	1	100.00%
N/A	38.43%	1	100.00%
N/A	50.61%	59	28.14%
N/A	27.77%	1	100.00%
N/A	35.66%	2	100.00%
N/A	39.04%	1	68.71%
N/A	27.98%	1	100.00%
N/A	30.35%	1	48.79%
N/A	33.16%	4	48.79%
N/A	27.79%	9	100.00%
N/A	30.42%	1	100.00%
N/A	26.63%	18	42.21%
N/A	22.03%	10	35.89%
N/A	37.96%	1	100.00%
N/A	34.43%	37	24.38%
N/A	28.48%	2	100.00%
N/A	25.16%	2	100.00%
N/A	73.65%	3	100.00%
N/A	19.06%	22	42.21%
N/A	21.49%	3	91.50%
N/A	36.61%	3	100.00%
N/A	33.89%	3	100.00%
N/A	38.35%	3	100.00%
N/A	31.34%	3	28.59%
N/A	24.13%	3	100.00%
N/A	31.26%	3	61.28%
N/A	40.25%	6	68.79%
N/A	28.79%	352	8.25%
N/A	44.06%	1	100.00%
N/A	30.34%	1	100.00%
N/A	28.56%	1	100.00%
N/A	34.96%	3	114.27%
N/A	28.01%	3	100.00%

The Moderator, Rosen Plevneliev, invited the panelists to share their vision in the next decade. Ehud Barak highlighted the role of science and technology in understanding and combatting with success the pandemic which is also linked to climate change. However, optimism cannot prevail with previous global warming targets not being met and contradictions prevailing such as continuous demand for increased fossil fuels. The US-China trade war is also damaging for the rest of the world. Action is required beyond declaratory proclamations! Shahmar Movsumov noted the loss of \$10 trillion global GDP losses due to the pandemic including 300 million jobs in the informal sector whilst affecting 52% of students worldwide. In 2020, debt of low and medium countries grew by 12% affecting likewise Azerbaijan. The current growth upsurge will however be felt in high income countries and vaccine nationalism will continue to blight the scene: the pandemic cannot be overcome without an equal and fair distribution of vaccines. Igor Luksic concurred and added that cultural habits and matrixes need also to be considered when addressing vaccine nationalism. Keeping the SDGs agenda as a bottom-up approach when compared to the top-down approach MDGs is important even if the 2030 goals seem optimistic: sustaining their legitimacy is vital. The change will come from the private business sector which must be better harnessed to and adopt more consistently these SDGs. Worrysome at COP26 is a new world economy adapting to rather than preventing climate change. A brighter hope prevails however on the future African development prospects. Petre Roman focused on the new global economy defined as between a well-planned journey and an unpredictable voyage striving towards near-zero carbon emissions when concomitantly the world will require a total overhaul of its energy system by mid-century. Threats to the future of mankind should not be enslaved to current dogmas on climate change due to the complexities of the new global economy living under real time evolutions of big data. New engines of growth are needed to fuel the future global economy and must be sustainable and resilient. Redesigning new energy markets is therefore necessary and possible with nuclear power remaining central on this complex journey. Antonio Zanardi Landi noted the absence of a “cold war” and the strange decoupling between the political and economic worlds. However, the global arms race is back with increased defence budgets across the board. An ad-



ditional worry is that the world is coming out of the crisis but, in the absence of leadership, devoid of optimistic future, a first in human history after a major cataclysm. However, the pandemic has also become a formidable accelerator of change which will require additional review. Rosalia Arteago Serrano focused her remarks from a Latin American perspective and wondered on its future position within the new post-pandemic global economy, a continent characterized by biodiversity, major forests and basins as well as a world hub for food security. Education and public health will require tremendous investment efforts to start with vaccinations. Migration flows will also need to be managed including those linked to climate change such as in Central America: solidarity must here remain at the forefront. Global and local need to be enmeshed creat-



ing a “global” economy rooted in reality of the peoples on their home turfs with Latin America and Europe as the drivers towards a “new normal” global economy.



# PANEL III

## PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN NEW ERA

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*Conflict and post-conflict management have been considered for far too long as politico-military sets of issues. They are. But they also invariably impact the poor, the vulnerable, the weak and the marginalized are the ones who suffer. Women, children and minorities are invariably targeted in conflict zones, or even in situations of local and regional stress. Mothers and children suffer from absence of basic services, not to mention the use of rapes and other horrors military tactics, or human trafficking for labor and sex, or the recruitment of child soldiers. The weak and the vulnerable are exposed when we look at inequalities. These social fault lines are harbingers of disasters to come.*

*Beyond these issues, there are more systemic issues of certain regimes depriving their citizens – or those under their control – of their human rights. We cannot look at the situation of the world without making a special point of addressing human rights, within the context of our efforts to promote peace and security on one side, and within our recognition of some egregious regimes that deprive their citizens of their human rights. But above all in this world today, we have over 70 million people who are formally refugees or Internally Displaced People (IDPs) according to the programs of the UNHCR, the UN's Refugee Agency, and whether refugees, returnees, stateless persons, or internally displaced people their number are rising. 85% of them are in low- and middle-income countries, and are further affected by drought, conflict, the pandemic and other diseases, and lack of access to work on education.*



Kerry Kennedy as moderator opened the panel by highlighting the world's greatest threat: hate. Healing divisions at home and abroad are at the heart of the discussion. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic opened her comments on the migration waves and displaced persons which are different in this century when compared to the former. Refugees require true human security, from health care and education to providing real integration in the host countries and communities in order to dispel mistrust and xenophobia. Within the UN framework, the principle of the 2005 Responsibility to Protect (R2P) has unfortunately become controversial buffeted between universal human rights and the Westphalian system of sovereign states. The veto issue needs to be raised when mass atrocities are committed against civilians in any given country. Prevention of conflict at its root must remain high on the international agenda. Mladen Ivanic from Bosnia and Herzegovina/RS stressed that readied compromise was a prerequisite when addressing the challenges of a complicated country. The same must apply to outside powers who should not engage in supporting on or the other side in the conflict. Major outside powers arrived to an agreement which allowed for the end of the Bosnian conflict. Today, conflict is rising between these powers which impacts on peace and stability in the West Balkans and elsewhere: no conflicts have since been solved in the last decade compounded by weakened human rights being relegated to the back of the international agenda as well as growing instability within the core power countries. Tzipi Livni noted that peace and security and human rights are for many in contradiction i.e. “my” security versus “their” human rights. Security does not come about by just military means: it must be comprehensive including all peace factors. Part of national identity is also a set of values which is unfortunately no longer prevalent. The international community must also tackle global warming. Mats Karlsson highlighted that free press and free flow of information is vitally important if only for societies to remain open to the pain of the world including refugees. Today's world is decisively dangerous with many of its safeguards falling apart.



Strength needs to be created at home in order to develop better and address corruption, public policy and income equality: social and economic distribution has been lost. Also, good borders make for good neighbors as epitomized at the inception of the United Nations: countries need to return to the clarity of borders guaranteed by the UN.

Marianna Vardinoyannis stressed human rights education as playing a vital role in forming attitudes as highlighted in the charter of UNESCO and furthered this year on open science which will allow scientific information to be more widely accessible. Miguel Angel Moratinos concluded this panel by noting that the pandemic has compounded global inequality, reversed development and peacebuilding gains. The new agenda for peace of the UN will need to protect and promote human rights of all peoples and in all its fields. The UN will also need to invest in prevention by addressing the root causes of conflict. These are the very core values of UNAOC.



# PANEL IV

## COMBATting CLIMATE CHANGE AND MEETING THE GLOBAL NEED FOR ENERGY: HOW DO WE DO BOTH?

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*Access to energy is essential for life, commerce, and security. The Sustainable Development Goals call for ensuring access for affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. There are over 800 million people in the world who still lack such energy and as many as three billion people without a safe way to cook their food. Energy security remains a core factor in countries' national security as well as in the overall dynamic of international relations. Moreover, as countries develop, their need and demand for energy grows and the growth in renewables is not keeping pace with the rise in demand. At the same time, the climate crisis makes it imperative we cut carbon emissions and do so quickly. As government, business, and other leaders address the urgent climate crisis, they also need to give attention to a growing demand for energy in many countries around the world. Moreover, in addressing these needs, publics, businesses, innovation centers, and governments need to consider the evolving nature of energy security, including the integrity and capacity of energy grids and how artificial intelligence (AI), the internet of things, and other tech developments have come into play. It is key as well to recognize the impact of public opposition to energy projects, including as to how poor and marginalized populations are affected.*

THE CLIMATE IS  
CHANGING



SO SHOULD WE!

#ACTNOW

The moderator Robert Cekuta opened the panel discussion by underlining the imperative to fight climate change and cut carbon emissions as highlighted in the SDGs, the energy sector being central in this fight: 1.8 billion people will be added to world population which will require clean energy, an impressive challenge to be met. Mary Warlick from the IEA presented the global energy scene by asking how to combine economic growth and poverty reduction with climate change mitigation policies. The World Energy Outlook was presented noting that large parts of the world remain excluded from energy access. New emissions targets have been tabled at the current Glasgow COP26 conference: the announced potential impact pledges will bring about substantial changes to global energy markets and lead to a 40% reduction of global emissions by 2050. Accelerating the transition to clean energy will remain the priority task but investments in these fields is lagging, and the implementation gap



must also remain the focus of the IEA in the years ahead. Chiril Gaburici noted that the world is far from its stated objectives on reducing global warming as it focuses on short term objectives. Maria Fernanda Espinosa stressed that climate change is a symptom of a systemic crisis and a profound fracture between the economy, society, nature and politics. A lack of progress is evident when looking at the Paris Agreement goals. A holistic approach is therefore required with a robust multilateral architecture including “common but differentiated” national commitments in order to tackle the challenges ahead. Parviz Shahbazov invited the panel to consider a smart energy transition which must encompass energy security, economic development and combatting climate change: a balance must be struck, and action implemented such as on renewable sources, energy efficiency and diversification as shown by Azerbaijan. Ouided Bouchamaoui wondered whether climate change is a priority in the Global South and whether the developing countries have the wherewithal and means to fight these changes. Education and communication policies are vital with a step-by-step practical planning of the tasks ahead such as in the agricultural sector, water management or in solar power generation.



Abdulaziz Altwaijri focused his remarks on education and culture. Moving from fossil fuels to renewables is a must and progress in this direction is increasingly feasible due to technological innovation. Ana Palacio alerted to the biggest challenge: CO2 emissions. The carbon footprint must be reduced so why not go for gas and/or nuclear energy contrary to conventional wisdom? These issues must be confronted head-on however difficult politically. Lazar Comanescu focused on cooperation and competition when addressing climate change and energy which can be mutually reinforcing when competition is an engine for progress, but disturbing when an engine of domination or control. With regards to climate change, awareness of cooperation has increased significantly as witness the Paris Agreement and today's COP26 whereas competition still prevails in the energy field. Concerted actions are required to include the entrepreneurial actors.



# PANEL V

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE PEOPLE'S VACCINE

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*The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the weaknesses in our global public health system, and the enormous inequities that exist both within and between countries. But today we have already developed 12 excellent vaccines to cope with most of the variants of the virus that spread the dreaded COVID-19. Today, most countries say, “no-one is safe until everyone is safe.” Today, we have a global instrument COVAX but it is not functioning optimally. We have also created the “Access to COVID-19 Tools” (ACT) Accelerator, as a new global collaboration to accelerate the development, production and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines. It was set up in response to a call from G20 leaders in March 2020 and launched by WHO, the European Commission, France and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in April 2020. But for the moment the most important breakthroughs have been in vaccines. Hence our “People's Vaccine” initiative. The main vaccine-producing countries are the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, China, Russia, and India. Monthly production by all companies producing COVID-19 vaccines is estimated to average around one billion doses. Thus together, these countries produce enough doses to complete the immunization process for the entire globe by early 2022. But the Vaccine-producing countries have used their output to vaccinate their own populations – with many millions of doses to spare. And vaccine-producing companies have made secret deals with governments to sell vaccines bilaterally rather than through COVAX at a lower cost. In addition, delays in getting everyone at a high level of vaccination (say 60-70% of adults) brings risks of emerging new variants that the vaccines cannot defeat. The situation is especially urgent in Africa, where only about 16 million people, or just 2% of the adult population, were fully immunized as of June 30. This is incredibly low, especially compared with full vaccination rates of 17% of the worldwide adult population outside of Africa, and far higher rates in the vaccine-producing countries: 57% of the adult population in the US, 59% in the UK, 40% in the EU, 15% in Russia, and 6% in India as of June 30, and 19% in China as of June 10. The good news is that comprehensive global vaccine coverage is feasible. We could theoretically vaccinate everyone before mid 2022... Global production levels are now high enough to reach comprehensive coverage for the adult population in every country within a few months.*

Coronavirus  
Vaccine

08/15-2020-290v217

Vaccine

08/15-2020-290v217

08/15-20

SARS-CoV-2

**COVID-19**

Coronavirus  
Vaccine

08/15-2020-290v217

SARS-CoV-2

**COVID-19**

Coronavirus  
Vaccine

08/15-2020-290v217

Susan Elliott, the moderator, opened the panel by underlining that Covid-19 has accentuated the weaknesses and inequalities of the global public health system including inequitable distribution of vaccines magnified by Africa where only 5% has received any vaccine dose compared to G7 countries who have purchased one third of world vaccines whilst representing only 13% of world population. COVAX and ACT Accelerator programmes are however addressing equitable vaccine access to the world at large and to the poor. Dalia Itzik highlighted that Israel was the first country to vaccinate a large part of its population, but conspiracy theories and fake news are slowing vaccination efforts among the youth. At the global level, vaccine nationalism is on the rise but sharing vaccines must become widespread: governments need to implement clear policies and promote media campaigns to this effect. Teymur Musayev referred to WHO figures regarding vaccine distribution: high income countries possess 133 doses for 100 people whereas only 4 doses are available to 100 people in low-income countries! Azerbaijan is leading an effective vaccination campaign where media campaigns play an important role and held out against vaccine nationalism and stockpiling. A global WHO response is needed, and new international pandemic rules need to be set up to manage intellectual property over Covid-19 vaccine production. Lessons of the pandemic are transparent information sharing and networking programmes. Changing attitudes in healthcare investment is also a priority which is longer an “expense” but rather an opportunity to build a resilient economy. Two major global crises will continue to face humanity in the future: pandemics and climate change. Concluding with Nizami Ganjavi, “There are locks with no keys but sooner or later the openers come.” Danilo Turk recalled that health care is still within national remits including within regional structures such as the EU although it had no competences in this field which is fortunately adapting. The African Union was more efficient in the initial response to Covid-19. The right to high health standards is a human right. Attaining this right must top the international agenda including in the G7 and G20, with the WHO at the helm leading to a comprehensive plan on vaccine distribution: results have yet to be seen. A Global Health Threats Council of Heads of States and Governments should be created. Also, the UN system has





not fully played its role: the UNGA should meet in a special General Assembly and adopt a unified political platform to prevent further pandemics. Laimdota Straujuma addressed international cooperation, national health care organization and information security and veracity. On dissemination of false information, societies have become intolerant during the crisis so dangerous fake news must be actively combatted through independent professional journalism and education with technological companies truly enforcing the rules.

# LUNCHEON DISCUSSION

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



THERE is  
 NO  
PLANET B



Moderator Zlatko Lagumdžija introduced Maria Fernanda Espinosa who spotlighted key issues: the human face of climate change which will forcibly displace by 2050 more than 140 million people; which gaps to close in climate mitigation requiring a renewal of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs); which type and from where climate financing; in sum, a reset is needed on “building back better”. A weakness is global climate governance which will require a strong multilateral response. The question is who monitors all the commitments made in COPs and in the more than one thousand multilateral environmental agreements? There is no way to ensure accountability, transparency and delivery. UNEP, for example, could transfer itself into an environmental regulatory agency. A Global Pact for the Environment is also in discussion as well as the establishment of a global resilience council putting into play human and planetary security dealing with non-military threats to international security. Nathalie de Gaulle focused her presentation on biodiversity loss as well as on the key role of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in addressing these issues. The remarks by Jeffrey Sachs were on the urgent need of new international institutions to handle global challenges -- such as pandemics and climate change -- in a world of sovereign nation-states which cannot address such fast-moving developments: strong multilateral institutions are lacking including within the UN system. The G20 representing 85% of world output also sets out objectives without any timelines or finance policies. Therefore, building strong multilateral institutions is the most urgent task ahead.



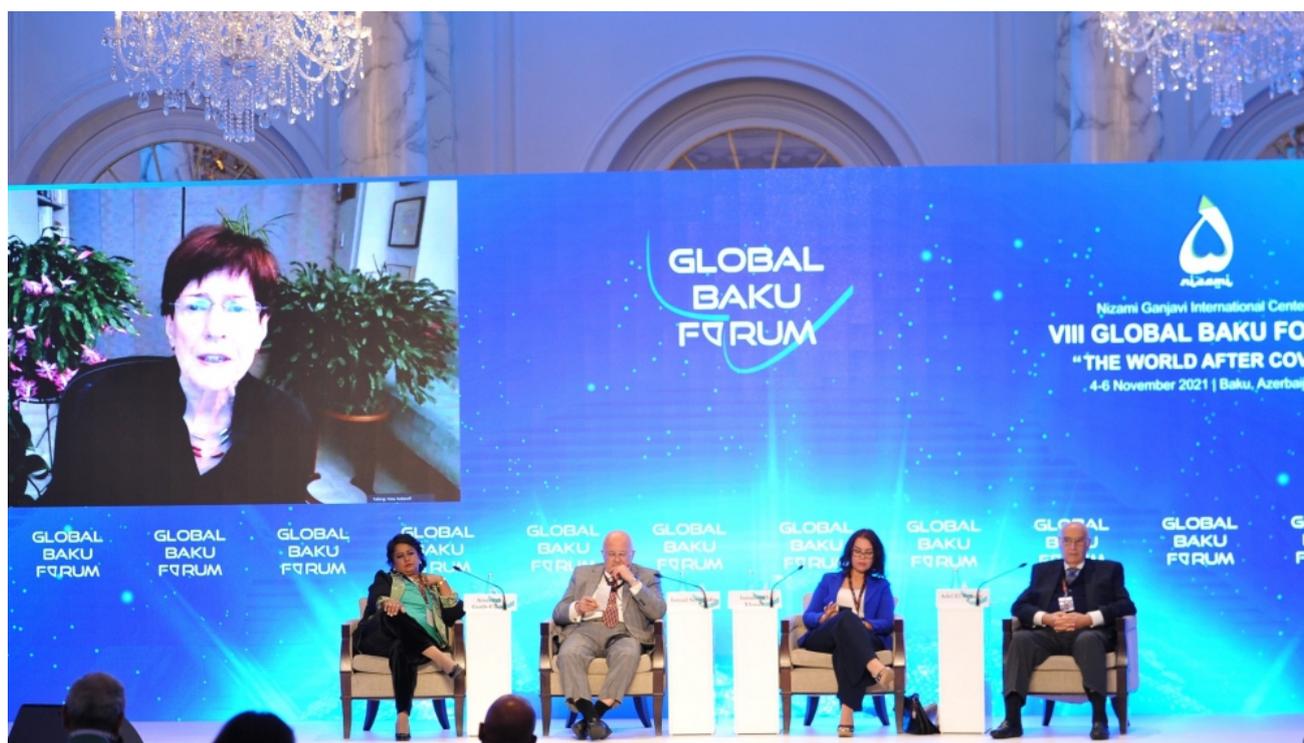
# PANEL VI

## PROMOTING FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY

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*The world is committed under the SDGs to end poverty and hunger. That means all forms of chronic malnutrition. This means that all people must at all times have access to sufficient quantities of affordable and safe food products. Achieving the goal means increasing the availability of nutritious food, making food more affordable and reducing inequities in access to food. That will require that we diminish post-harvest food losses and better manage the production, storage, transportation, and distribution of food. Our food systems must, despite shocks and stresses, deliver food security, nutrition, and equitable livelihoods for all. In addition, to contribute to the elimination of poverty, a re-engineered food and nutrition system must promote full and productive employment and decent work for all actors along the food value chain, reducing risks for the world's poorest, enabling entrepreneurship and addressing the inequitable access to resources. We must also improve resilience through social protection and buffer stocks and ensure that food systems serve all at all times. We also need to educate consumer demand so that it goes for sustainably produced food, allowing us to strengthen local value chains, improve nutrition, and promote the reuse and recycling of food resources, especially among the most vulnerable. This means that we need to eliminate wasteful patterns of food consumption. Agriculture, forestry, and aquaculture are the biggest interface between humans and nature... We must learn to work with nature not against it, thereby reducing biodiversity loss, pollution, water use, soil degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. We must confront the constraints and maximize the opportunities facing smallholder farmers and small-scale enterprises along the food value chain.*





Ismail Serageldin moderated the session by inviting Adel El Beltagy to open the discussion. The deception that climate mitigation will fulfill the aspiration of billions of people in developing countries is pervasive: a clear strategy of adaptation is urgently required. By 2050 world agricultural production will need to increase by 70% while climate change will force a decrease of 20%: how to address this conundrum? New genetic production and tools of smart agriculture will hence need to be implemented including regional Sandai-type risk management frameworks. Climate change impact needs bio modelling from the global to the local in order to avoid 1 billion climate refugees by 2080. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim mentioned that basic access to food in the Covid era had become an urgency. With 85% of African agriculture rain-fed, climate change will impact on future food production with a tremendous biodiversity loss with seed banks becoming a necessity to ensure food security. Also, rising sea waters seeping into aquifers will need close monitoring. Nina Fedoroff presented a global perspective with today 1% of the earth too hot for agriculture and human habitation to grow to 20% in the next half century. Technology and covered agriculture will close the gap, but genetics must come to the rescue in order to reap higher crop yields to include GMO crops which have increased by +20% inducing a 70% in farmer income with no health hazards. Progress in gene editing and nutritional value are unfortunately stalled by political regulatory considerations. Ismahane Elouafi noted that the FAO considers the world to have reached the crisis point with agri-foods systems no longer optimal with 811 million under nourished populations amplified by the pandemic. Technology and sciences by mimicking nature are the solution to producing more with less. Innovation is skyrocketing whilst waste and loss represents +30% of production. As a reminder, agriculture, employing 4.5 billion people, is the only sector that emits and sequesters carbon emissions.



# PANEL VII

## YOUTH SPEAK, WE LISTEN

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*In today's volatile political and social environment — what can be described as both the best of times and the worst of times — we must be cognizant that the issues we discuss and the policies we recommend will form the environment in which the next generation will live and work. It is essential that we listen to the views of youth when we make our decisions. There is much we can learn from them about new trends, new values, new outlooks and new technologies that can inspire us to make better decisions and recommend more viable policies. The young leaders present at the Baku Global Forum represent the best and brightest of the next generation. While they can benefit from our extensive knowledge and experience, we can benefit from their fresh, innovative and enlightening discussions on issues important to them. Together we can help create an environment that will be secure and productive for them, a world where they can create and thrive.*

# “Global Young Leaders Forum 2017”

Baku, Azerbaijan





The NGIC Young Leaders under the leadership of Katerina Yushchenko presented their findings on three main topics: Peace and security, energy security and climate change, and food security and health technology. On peace and security, the link between AI and the military was spelled out with its high risks including lethal autonomous systems devoid of human control. Biometric recognition was also worrisome. Future conflict resolutions and easy manipulation of non-educated populations was also addressed. With regards to energy security and climate change, competition between energy demands impacting climate change was highlighted including the role played by nuclear energy. As to food security and health technology, the Young Leaders were proponents of allocating vaccine fabrication plants on site to combat vaccine nationalism. Tools need proper diagnosis where old equipment, technology and methods requiring continuous training and education. Global food security and unhealthy diets were also of concern requiring greater involvement of the



private sector in reshaping nutrition trends. Finally, supply chains need decentralized unions and flows including the importance of shipping lanes.



# PANEL VIII

## SOUTH CAUCASUS: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPECTS FOR COOPERATION

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*The South Caucasus region is a vital region where the conflicting interests of the USA, China and Russia, as well as the strategic interests of Iran and Turkey will be playing out. So, the South Caucasus region has a big role to play in promoting regional stability and global peace. Azerbaijan, under the leadership of President Aliyev is advancing that search for stability and peace.*

*After the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh war, there is much that still has to be done to establish a new post-war framework for peace and development in the southern Caucasus. President Aliyev has identified general principles and formally asserted his readiness to work with all in order to advance the cause of peace and development in the region, with full respect for the human rights of all.*



R U S S I A

G E O R G I A

■ TBILISI

Mingachevir reservoir

Lake Sevan

A R M E N I A

■ YEREVAN

A Z E R B A I J A N

Absheron Peninsula

■ BAKU

T.

A Z E R B .

I R A N

Chil

Moderator Valdis Zatlers noted that the thirty-years “frozen” conflict had been lifted with the liberation of occupied Azerbaijan territories in Nagorno-Karabakh (NK). The region now needs to look at the future and invited Hikmat Hajiyev to present the Azeri view. After thirty years of diplomatic efforts and hope to resolve the crisis, the OSCE Minsk Group failed dismally to produce positive results which exemplified a crisis of multilateralism. NK is now a domestic issue for Azerbaijan, no longer a foreign policy topic. Communications need to be reestablished including a corridor to Nakhichevan as well as opening ultimate peace treaty negotiations with Armenia hopefully to result in an Elysée-type treaty as signed between France and Germany or in a Camp David process. The South Caucasus was fragmented and requires reunification with Armenia and Georgia joining this integration process to benefit all with Azerbaijan: Armenia has however yet to respond. Binali Yildirim stressed the current genuine prospects for peace and stability in the region which should not be lost. The cease fire must hold with Russia as peacekeepers. Both the Lachin Corridor should not be misused and construction of the link to Nakhichevan started. Turkey is presenting a new cooperative platform for the South Caucasus with Russia, Iran, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and has been active on Central Asia-Eu-

rope connectivity projects such as the Southern Gas Corridor, TANAP or TAP and the Middle Corridor railway line. Common ownership will ensure regional connectivity open to Central Asian and European partners. A new mentality is hence required with Armenia engaging positively Azerbaijan: normalization across the region is needed including at some stage between Turkey and Armenia. David Merkel presented a U.S. vision characterized by change in the region. Notwithstanding an unequal U.S. policy in the South Caucasus,





Azerbaijan has promoted energy security for Europe and fought the war on global terrorism in a challenging neighbourhood with Iran and Russia and increasingly China with its BRI. Turning to the security architecture, OSCE failed, beyond NK, also in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Transnistria and is no longer fit to purpose. On the strategic outlook, no dividing lines should be reestablished. Hikmet Cetin recalled that Turkey was the first to recognize independent Armenia in 1991 but a lost opportunity incurred with Armenia rejecting talks with Azerbaijan and the United States. Then as now, the Armenian diaspora plays a negative role: the U.S., France and Russia should support the resolution of the conflict. Looking to the future must be the game in town to include diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and Turkey and Armenia. Robert Cetuka noted the 2020 strategic earthquake which changed regional dynamics including ramifications in the U.S. and the EU which calls for a new strategic vision and notably Turkey's wishes to build positive relations with Armenia. The Caucasus and Central Asia are the least integrated regions of the world which impedes development and prosperity. Thirty years of hostility have impacted the Azeri and Armenian populations hard particularly for the young-

er generations who do possess memory of past relations between the two communities creating political burdens for the leaderships in both countries: building bridges becomes a priority task which NGIC could pick up.



# PANEL IX

## ASSESSING WESTERN BALKANS: THE WAY FORWARD

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*This region is at the heart of the Eurasia region, and thus has a special role to play both in the socio-economic sphere, and in the political and security sphere. As we come out of the COVID-19 induced recession and the lockdowns and disruptions that have marked the last 18 months, the world is emerging into new realities. This region at the intersection of so many forces and linked as it is to the South Caucasus region, requires special attention. Amid the deepened uncertainty and continued interference of malicious external actors in the domestic affairs of Western Balkan nations, it is particularly apt moment to reexamine and assess the path forward for the region.*





The Moderator, Zlatko Lagumdžija, invited Petar Stoyanov for opening comments. The EU accession issue of the West Balkans remains high on the agenda although these countries have always been recognized as European. Is Brussels far more stringent on accession criteria for the West Balkans when compared to the Visegrad Four and Bulgaria-Romania? Circumstances have since radically changed by promises for a future European perspective of integration are still available although the capacity to take in new members is questioned today by the EU. Boris Tadic characterized today's world as unpredictable when compared to 2008-2012 which included the unilateral independence of Kosovo. The Central Asian, Caucasus and Western Balkans chessboards are today interconnected as witness BRI. The EU perspective for the West Balkans has shifted since the beginning of the century: trust is now lacking in the West Balkans that the EU will keep its commitment which impacts negatively on the political discourse and perspectives in the candidate countries. Should the EU relegate enlargement to West Balkans on its agenda, then instability in Europe's "soft belly" will persist and gravely weaken its original uni-

fication project and its singular role in the world. For Filip Vujanovic the Western Balkan countries should not constantly question their past and accept their diverse outlooks as well as their existing borders. The Serbia-Kosovo issue must be resolved by negotiation with the help of the international community and the Berlin Process on EU-West Balkans cooperation must be respected in order to create a common regional market. Ivo Josipovic wondered whether the EU had the capacity to further enlarge to the Western Balkans which also hinges on particular candidate countries. Fulfilling EU accession criteria allows for building better states and societies, but the EU did not have the real capacity to accept Croatia although it went along. The key to reform is in the hands of national political leaders who must tackle serious domestic problems beforehand were they one day to join the EU. Compromise is still the missing word and 2021 witnessed most worrisome trends since the discussion launched 35 years ago on West Balkans' EU integration process. Jan Fischer characterized the current EU as fragmented from which flows reactions and policies to further enlargement as witness the latest Summit with the West Balkans. Values remain central for any integration. The EU remains attractive to the world, but national selfishness is on the rise weakening common solidarity faced by the many economic, climate and



pandemic challenges. Notwithstanding, the European perspective for the Western Balkans must remain on the agenda. Susan Elliott finally focused her presentation on the role of NGOs and referred to the joint 2021 report with NGIC on Assessing the Western Balkans' Way Forward: High Time for Action in the Western Balkans.



# PANEL X

## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: WHAT IS POTENTIAL?

“

*Against the backdrop of changing geopolitical terrain globally as well as on the European Continent, the fundamental question regarding the future of Eastern Partnership is whether it hit a dead end as a multilateral partnership framework. It's no secret that gaps in ambitions of Eastern partnership countries towards approximation with Europe has widened over the course of past few years. Currently Belarus is the most striking case in point. In terms of strategic anchoring towards the EU, except of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia, there is very little that binds all six countries together.*

*Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia started to promote an associated trio as a platform for boosting their rapprochement track with the EU, trying to promote closer integration with the EU, a membership perspective as well as more cooperation in the security domain with the EU.*



Eka Tkeshelashvili, the moderator, set the scene by recalling the EaP 2009 launch for a EU strategic partnership in its immediate Eastern neighbourhood -- Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan -- and developments in the relationship since. Ana Birchall was saddened that the EaP results had not lived up to expectations inhibited by Russia but the EU should retain a long-term commitment to its Eastern neighbours, provide performance-based incentives as well as restore trust in the process whilst addressing ongoing and increasing hybrid threats to the region. Valdis Zatlers stressed the priority of good neighbourly relations including for the EU: EaP was not designed to countenance Russian pressures or create new spheres of influence but to set up a friendly and safe environment, and should be tailor-made to specific demands of the partners. Viktor Yushchenko Over years, Ukrainians have proven their commitment to the European Union and its values. We have paid and we have been paying very high price for our EU aspirations. Being part of Europe is what people of Ukraine want. Ukraine has made great progress on that movement, but we are still a young democracy that faces many challenges, and we have to continue to deal with them. But some of the challenges that we face require lots of solidarity from our partners, and

a lot of global support. We are talking about Eastern Europe, a region with very complicated foreign policy for several reasons – a 1000-kilometer-long border with Russia that claims that the biggest tragedy of the 20th century was the collapse of the Soviet Union, and that strives to recreate the Lost Empire.

When it comes to Eastern Europe, EU needs to do two things:

- give clear membership perspective and
- define security and defense model for the region





When EU fails to fill the space with giving countries like Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova a clear membership perspective, Russia fills this vacuum with the spirit of occupation, and, and not only military invasion, but a whole range of its traditional ways: cyber-attacks, poisoning of its opponents, etc.

The so-called “schoederization” of Europe is what we pay a very high price. As a result, we face the lack of global vision of the EU expansion. During this Forum we talk about the need of coordinated global response to the challenges that we face – COVID, migration, etc. Same applied to Eastern Europe – we need a clear membership perspective that will add energy and inspiration and progress. Without clear understanding of where the eastern borders of EU are and how to protect them, EU is doomed to face security challenges. These are the most important issues for the discussion for the next EU Eastern partnership summit.

Petru Lucinschi since it's independence member states EaP looked to the integration to the EU. In the beginning process there been a concrete plan, road map from EU, but lately there is no clear idea what is next. Each country's specificity should be taken into consideration. Gennady Burbulis there is no partnership without dialogue or trust. But in today's reality we see that EU and outside of it's borders instead of having multipolar world, there is self-isolation and egoism. Especially youth have to set up their goals and ideas of future, what they want to achieve.



# LUNCHEON DISCUSSION

“MULTILATERALISM”

“





UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES



Amre Moussa questioned whether any possibilities existed to renovate the international multilateral system or, to the contrary, if it had to be replaced in full. The UN needs immediate renovation for it to be fit in a new era as recently underlined by its Secretary General. The specialized agencies have certainly succeeded in serving well the international community but the question remains whether the Security Council and to a lesser degree the General Assembly can be reformed having showed deficiencies in peacebuilding, on climate change policies, and in bridging gaps between the rich and poor countries. Any renovation of the international system must review the goals of the UN as a whole and not just add or subtract institutions or positions in the UN nomenclatura. Tzipi Livni noted an erosion in the concept of multilateralism since the end of World War II on its road from cooperation to globalization but leaving many behind. The Security



Council is no longer functioning properly and COP26 is coming out with lowest common denominators which will not be sufficient to tackle global warming. Multilateral structures will continue to be challenged by the existential threat of climate change. Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Saud stressed that tackling today's multiple challenges require multilateralism and not unilateralism at times when global political polarization and economic nationalism are on the rise not helped by a "us versus them" mentality as witness the growing US-China divide. The world deserves the model of multilateralism with the UN system at its centre which therefore requires its urgent attention and reform including its Security Council such as the proposal that all passed Resolutions once approved can no longer be vetoed.

# PANEL XI

## FUTURE OF EU ON THE GLOBAL STAGE



*The EU was a visionary creation that managed to transform the relations between deadly antagonists into peaceful partners, e.g., France and Germany. It expanded the fruitful collaborations among its members, and increased its membership enhancing peace and prosperity across the continent.*

*However, it was not able to become a single federal state, an ambition that was largely abandoned when the citizens of France and the Netherlands (two of the original six founders of the EEC) rejected a proposed European Constitution that had been drafted by a committee headed by former French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. But despite successes in various areas, (e.g., common market, human rights, the euro, the unification of Germany) and the eastward advances after the collapse of the Soviet Union, it still had difficulties in defining a common foreign policy and a common defense posture (independent of NATO). Yet the EU was seen everywhere as a force for peace, prosperity, democracy and human rights. But lately, it has been having problems with the rise of what has been termed by some as “illiberal democracies”, democracies in name only where repetitive elections simply serve to ratify the ruling regime. At a time when the world order is being redefined by the rise of China and the return of Russia, and the uncertainties surrounding the evolving posture of the US, the growing importance of the Pacific and East Asia vis-à-vis the traditional dominance of the Atlantic Alliance, it becomes ever more important to focus on the questions addressed by this panel.*





Vaira Vike-Freiberga introduced the discussion by recalling the impressive and rapid evolution of the European unification process after centuries of fratricide wars and divisions, from the ECSC onwards to the Six and now twenty-seven member states of the EU. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic recalled the disillusion of Croatia and other former Yugoslav countries in Europe's inability to come up with a common foreign and security policy with the crisis having been resolved by an outside power i.e. U.S. intervention. Europe remains unfinished business as witness border stresses in its Southeast and the rise of populism and authoritarianism in its midst. Connectivity, complicity and contestation are the trends to which the EU must respond as well as threats to its core values both within



and outside including by its allies. The EU must address its internal divisions and ensure that solidarity remains at the centre of its values including a new focus on defence and security defined as “strategic autonomy” lest trust be lost in the European project: unity of purpose and action must see the day. Nguyen Anh Tuan underlined Europe’s innovative technologies which also remains a pioneer on the global stage proposing a new social model for the world as well as a global alliance for digital governance. Emil Constantinescu highlighted that the European project will not be able to pursue its path in the absence of a solid cultural underpinning. Brexit has created a precedent and migration flows have tested EU integration capacity. Yves Leterme recalled that, after much haggling, Europe continues to deliver. In the security field, it is handicapped by the dual structure of NATO and EU, the imbalance in military power

of its member states, and optical differences between Western and Central European countries which persist. Europe remains a small peninsular at the tip of Eurasia but is an important market, a harbor of universal cultural values whilst continuing to defend its core interests. The EU could become a driving force and engine for a new effective multilateralism. Vaira Vike-Freiberga concluded the discussion by reminding the participants that the consequences of Europe’s division with an Iron Curtain running through its centre for so many decades still remain felt to these very days.



# THE CLOSING DINNER



The closing dinner opened by the moderation of Co-Chair Ismail Serageldin who introduced the video messages of speakers by being the first one Tatiana Valovaya.

Tatiana Valovaya congratulated participants on the successful conclusion of the VIII Global Baku Forum and thanked the Nizami Ganjavi International Center for organizing an important high-level event at such an important moment. She emphasized that we are facing four looming threats to human progress: 1) surging geopolitical tensions 2) the climate crisis 3) global mistrust and 4) downsides of digital technologies. The COVID-19 pandemic multiplies these threats and laid bare deep injustices and inequalities. The vision of the United Nations is that food and healthcare, water and sanitation, education and social security are not a commodity for sale to those who can afford it but it is basic human rights to which everyone is entitled. This vision is at the heart of 2030 agenda for sustainable development, our common blueprint for peace and prosperity on a healthy planet. The COVID-19 pandemic showed that more intergovernmental cooperation, inclusion and strengthened impactful multilateral institutions are needed to overcome today's fragilities. Participants of Global Baku Forum have an important role



to play in shaping this new multilateral order with diversity, inclusion and transparent governance at all levels. Being an important partnership building platform, the Global Baku Forum continue paving the way towards a better global governance and more efficient and inclusive multi-stakeholder solutions to the transnational challenges. She highlighted that it is necessary to continue in this direction and wished success in advancing these objectives.

Chau Chak Wing expressed in his video message that over three days all participants have offered their wisdom, they have provided many constructive opinions on issues ranging from the post-pandemic economic recovery to public health cooperation, sustainable development and the emerging global order which have strengthened our resolve in battling the pandemic and building a better world. He also delivered his respect to H.E Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Co-Chairs and Members of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center for organizing VIII Global Baku Forum.

Natalia Gavrilita mentioned in her video message that we live in complicated times and the whole world is facing the worst pandemic in the last 100 years which will undoubtedly remain a landmark in human history. The scars of the pandemic will be felt by many gen-



erations ahead. Most countries have been forced to take drastic measures putting a hold to their economies, introducing barriers for travel and imposing restrictions. As a result, the global economy has experienced the deepest recession in decades, supply chains have been disrupted, millions of jobs have been lost. Many people are feeling much more isolated and vulnerable, and unfortunately more than 5 million lives were lost due to COVID-19. For the last two years many nations have had to deal with two strategic tasks: saving people and saving the economy. There is no



way to achieve these goals without solidarity and given the global scale of the challenge; the solidarity has also to be global. Mass vaccination and economic stimulus are the only immediate available remedies. Vaccination is the only chance to stop the death and to help medical system. She informed the participants on the measures that have been taken by the Moldovan government in order to lessen the effects of pandemic.

She also emphasized the importance of energy security and the European Union and expressed her gratitude to the Republic of Azerbaijan for provided help and openness to cooperate.

She closed her speech by saying that *"The future of our world will not depend exclusively on peace and security but increasingly*



*on the resilience of our health and economic systems. We will need impeccable management to rehabilitate the global economy and trade, and this task will have to be achieved while taking into account other global challenges such as global climate change”*

Vladimir Norov pointed that the organization of this forum by Nizami Ganjavi International Center is very timely and relevant when socioeconomic life in all countries is experiencing the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic created a crisis situation caused significant damage to national economies, became a factor of sharp increase in unemployment and poverty and changed the way of life of millions of people. In this difficult situation global solidarity and international cooperation would be the only right choice to reduce the consequences of these large-scale tests in all areas of cooperation. It is necessary to refrain from the ongoing politization of the topic of the pandemic which is a global challenge to the entire international community and requires coordinated action by all states. In a number of countries certain political forces have questioned the activities of the leading multilateral institution as was the case with the World Health Organization. At the same time, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member state highly appreciate and fully support the activities of WHO, follow its recommendation for the prevention and control of the spread of the diseases. The pandemic has also shown that there is a no significant progress in the formation of comprehensive approaches to combating a wide range of non-traditional challenges and threats.

In this regard the SCO expressing support for multilateralism, calls on all countries of the world to establish and strengthen a network of horizontal partnership in the interest of complementarity and synchronization of common efforts in order to build a peaceful, safe, prosperous and environmentally friendly planet Earth.

Marianna V. Vardinoyannis expressed her gratitude to President and Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for supporting VIII Global Baku Forum and congratulated participants on the success of the event during his recorded video message. She said that the initiatives like the Global Baku Forum give us an opportunity to join forces toward this course. Also, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO mentioned that “the world after COVID-19 cannot be other than a world of global solidarity and cooperation. “The challenges are so great that only together we can achieve progress and fulfill our aspirations for a better future.”

HRH Prince Turki AlFaisal AlSaudi underlined that this pandemic will not be the last pandemic humanity will face in the future. Common issues like climate, poverty, nuclear proliferation and inequality between people and nations require new thinking to overcome the challenges facing our world. Tackling all these urgent issues requires multilateralism.

Hedva Ser expressed her gratitude to the Co-Chairs, Secretary General and the staff for all their efforts to organize the Global Baku Forum and also mentioned that she

is very happy to be among the high-level participants and to be included to the big family that we are in here.

Vaira Vike-Freiberga stressed that in Glasgow the heads of state are probably addressing the most urgent problem of the day in spite of everything else that is happening, it is the global climate change and the threats that it poses in so many ways, in so many parts of the world.

The young people who met in Glasgow in parallel with the heads of state and government were clamoring for action, for hard decisions and commitments and many of them are saying. There's too much talk going on and too little action. The talk is necessary at the level of heads of state and government but it's also necessary in wider society, and this is why the Nizami Ganjavi International Center as a meeting place for the exchange of ideas, experience and suggestions as to how to do things better.

By saying thoughts come before words and words come before actions, she underlined that it is very important for a mass of people in the world to understand what makes for peace, prosperity and happiness and what are the factors that counter it. Ideas are important, exchanging ideas is more important still this is why the freedom of speech and of expression is such a crucial part of the ideals that we hold dear eight hundred and eighty years ago the great poet Nizami Ganjavi embodied many of these ideals in his poetry.

She concluded her speech by thanking President and Vice President of Azerbaijan for all their support and all for being in Baku in spite of the pandemic, potential danger of infection that all of us who travel might encounter in our path.

The closing dinner was closed by the presentation of Ismail Serageldin with positive note:

*There is a tide in the affairs of men,  
Which taken at the flood leads onto fortune.  
Omitted all the voyage of their life  
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.  
On such a full sea are we now afloat.  
And we must take the current when it serves,*

*We shall not lose our ventures...  
We shall bend the curbs to serve our purpose  
It can be done, It must be done  
As we move forwards and onwards to better tomorrows.*



“

## ON RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE

The following day, on the 7th of November the participants headed to Shusha, cultural capital of Azerbaijan to take part in the seminar of “On Restoration and Maintenance of Our Cultural Heritage” within the VIII Baku Global Forum to discuss the economic value of cultural heritage, to demonstrate the techniques of calculating the value of such an investment to show that like the protection of the environment and the richness of biodiversity, the investment in the rehabilitation and maintenance of our cultural heritage is worthwhile as much for the intangible benefits that it brings, as for the tangible returns from physical assets being rehabilitated.

The Seminar was tied to a visit to the historic city of Shusha, thus giving the theoretical discussions among the experts a grounding in the realities of the challenges facing the authorities in returning this historic city to its erstwhile glory. Shusha is the cradle of the musical traditions of Azerbaijan’s vocal and instrumental arts called Mugham, The seminar addressed the question of how one justify spending money on restoring and

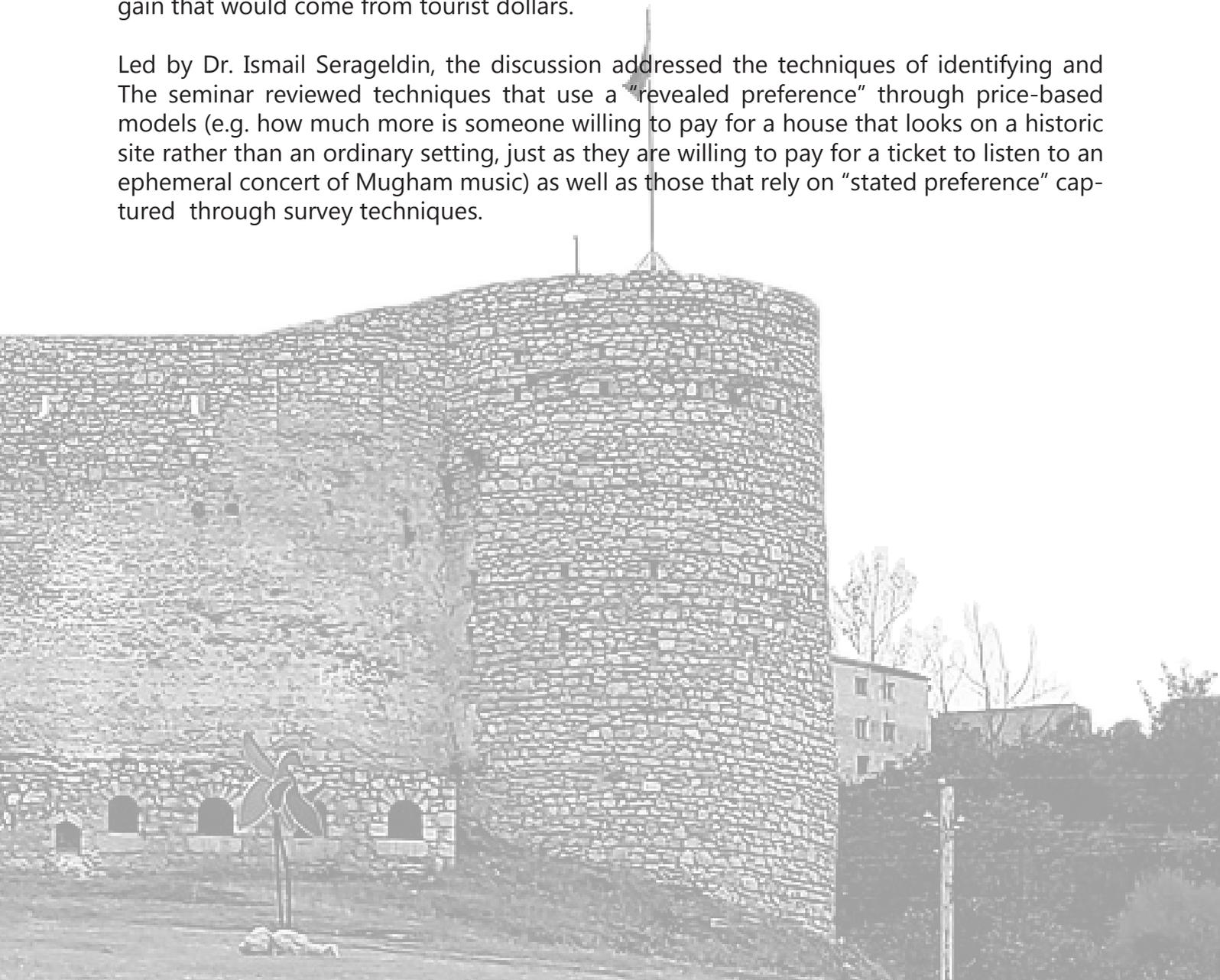
Shusha



maintaining buildings of the Cultural Heritage (CH) versus, say, putting the marginal available funds into investments in education, roads or health or other sectors. We should analyze such investments in CH as we do most other public investments, namely by applying a rigorous Benefit-Cost Analysis. However, while the costs of the envisaged restoration and maintenance operations can be calculated with great precision, the benefits that would accrue to the country may not be so clear. Obviously, revenues from tourism are benefits that could justify the cost of the restoration. But, it was shown that limiting the benefit stream to tourism would lead to errors in judgement. For example, it would imply that parts of the CH that some foreigners are not interested in spending money to visit are not worth protecting. Or, it would lead to a policy of trying to maximize the number of tourists that come to visit even if it "denatures" the experience of interacting with that CH site. Finally, in cases of lumpy investments, it could lead to arguing that whatever brings the most tourist dollars (e.g. a casino on the beach) should take priority over safe-guarding the CH.

Clearly, there is an intrinsic value to CH: the contributions it makes to bringing a country's history to life, the input it has in promoting a collective sense of pride, and the undoubted value it brings to promoting a sense of national and local identity. There is an enormous reservoir of "Intangible Benefits" that must be recognized above and beyond the monetary gain that would come from tourist dollars.

Led by Dr. Ismail Serageldin, the discussion addressed the techniques of identifying and The seminar reviewed techniques that use a "revealed preference" through price-based models (e.g. how much more is someone willing to pay for a house that looks on a historic site rather than an ordinary setting, just as they are willing to pay for a ticket to listen to an ephemeral concert of Mugham music) as well as those that rely on "stated preference" captured through survey techniques.



# SHUSHA

The intention of the seminar was to review a whole range of techniques from “Travel Cost Methods” to “Hedonic Pricing” and many other methods, each with its own controversies.

But the seminar appropriately talked about the special case of historic cities. There, the “Sense of Place” is more important than individual buildings. The whole is more than the sum of its parts. But the seminar was lucky in the arrival of HE President Aliyev who took the participants on a walking tour of the historic city of Shusha! That was a remarkable experience that really brought the historic city to life and allowed the participants to see first-hand the restoration work being done on a number of historic buildings.





# LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

## Current Heads of State and Government & International Organizations

Sefik Dzaferovic

Member of the Presidency of Bosnia & Herzegovina

Boris Johnson

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Message)

Egils Levits

President of the Republic of Latvia (video message)

Nathalia Gavrilita

Prime Minister of Moldova (Video Message)

His Holiness Pope Francis

Head of Catholic Church and sovereign of Vatican City State (message)

Kristalina Georgieva

Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (video message)

Tatiana Valovaya

Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva (digital speaker)

Miguel Angel Moratinos

UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (video message)

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Director-General, World Health Organization (digital speaker)

## Board of Trustees Members

Vaira Vike-Freiberga

Co-Chair, NGIC; President of Latvia 1999-2007

Ismail Serageldin

Co-Chair, NGIC; Vice President of the World Bank 1992-2000

Jean Baderschneider

Board of Directors, Fortescue Metals and Fortescue Future Industries; Chair of the Board, The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery; former Vice-President, ExxonMobil (digital speaker)

Tarja Halonen

President of Finland 2000-2012 (digital speaker)

Ivo Josipovic

President of Croatia 2010-2015

Kerry Kennedy

President, Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (digital speaker)

Zlatko Lagumdžija

Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2001-2002; deputy Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2012-2015

Yves Leterme

Prime Minister of Belgium 2008, 2009-2011

Amre Moussa

Secretary-General, Arab League 2001-2011; Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt 1991-2001

David Qinzhong Pan

Executive Dean of Schwarzman College (digital speaker)

Rosen Plevneliev

President of Bulgaria 2012-2017

Petar Stoyanov

President of Bulgaria 1997-2002

Boris Tadic  
President of Serbia 2004-2012

Eka Tkeshelashvili  
Deputy Prime Minister of Georgia 2010-2012

Marianna V. Vardinoyannis  
Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO (digital speaker)

Filip Vujanovic  
President of Montenegro 2003-2018

Kateryna Yushchenko  
First Lady of Ukraine 2005-2010

## Former Heads of State and Government

Gordon Brown  
Prime Minister of the UK 2007-2010 (digital speaker)

Ehud Barak  
Prime Minister of Israel 1999-2001

Emil Constantinescu  
President of Romania 1996-2000

Chiril Gaburici  
Prime Minister of Moldova 2015

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim  
President of Mauritius 2015-2018

Dalia Itzik  
President of Israel 2007, President of Knesset 2006-2009

Mladen Ivanic  
President of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2018

Jan Fischer  
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic 2009-2010  
(Digital Speaker)

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic  
President of Croatia 2015-2020

Petru Lucinschi  
President of Moldova 1997-2001

Igor Luksic  
Prime Minister of Montenegro 2010-2012

Moussa Mara  
Prime Minister of Mali 2014-2015

Stjepan Mesic  
President of Croatia 2000-2010

Festus Mogae  
President of Botswana 1998-2008; Special Envoy  
of the United Nations Secretary-General on  
Climate Change

Petre Roman  
Prime Minister of Romania 1989-1991

Rosalía Arteago Serrano  
President of Ecuador 1997 (digital speaker)

Laimdota Straujuma  
Prime Minister of Latvia 2014-2016 (digital speaker)

Danilo Turk  
President of Slovenia 2007-2012 (digital speaker)

Viktor Yushchenko  
President of Ukraine 2005-2010

Binali Yildirim  
Prime Minister of Turkey 2016-2018; Speaker of  
the Grand National Assembly 2018-2019

Valdis Zatlers  
President of Latvia 2007-2011

## Former Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers & Members of Parliament

HRH Prince Turki AlFaisal AlSaud  
Chairman of the Board, King Faisal Center for  
Research & Islamic Studies

HRH Prince Saud bin Turki AlFaisal  
Advisor to HRH Prince Turki AlFaisal AlSaud

Rashid Alimov  
Secretary-General, SCO 2016-2018, Minister of  
Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan 1992-1994

Ana Birchall  
Deputy Prime Minister of Romania 2018-2019;  
Minister of Justice 2019; Member of the Parliament  
of Romania

Gennady Burbulis  
First Deputy Prime Minister to the Russian  
Federation 1991-1992, State Secretary

Wang Chao  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of China 2013-  
2019; President, Chinese People's Institute of  
Foreign Affairs (digital speaker)

Hikmet Cetin  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey 1991-1994

Cemil Chichek  
Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey 2007-2011; Speaker  
of the Grand National Assembly 2011-2015

Maria Fernanda Espinosa  
73rd President of the UN General Assembly;  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador 2017-2018;  
Minister of Defense 2012-2014

Tzipi Livni  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel 2006-2009

Ana Palacio  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain 2002-2004

Anatol Usatii  
Former Minister of Economy and Infrastructure of  
the Republic of Moldova

## International Organizations

Mohamed Mahmoud Abdelsalam  
Secretary-General of the Higher Committee on  
Human Fraternity; Co-President, Religions for  
Peace, Advisor of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar  
Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayyeb

Abdulaziz Altwaijri  
Former Director-General of ISESCO

Farida Allaghi  
Ambassador of Libya to the European Union 2015-  
2016; Senior Adviser to HRH Prince Talal Bin  
Abdulazez Al Saud

Ouided Bouchamaoui  
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015

Volkan Bozkır  
President of the 75th UN General Assembly;  
Minister of European Union Affairs of the  
Republic of Turkey 2015-2016

Bonnie Burnham  
former Head of the World Monuments Fund

Robert Cekuta  
US Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan  
2015-2018

Vinton Cerf  
Vice-President of Google, father of the Internet  
(video message)

Hazel Collins  
Founder, Hazel Collins Design

Lazar Comanescu  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania 2008,  
2015-2017; Secretary General of the Permanent  
International Secretariat (PERMIS) of the  
Organization of the Black Sea Economic  
Cooperation (BSEC)

**Jorge Diener**

Executive Director, Hadassa International

**Adel El Beltagy**

Chair of the International Dryland Development Commission; Former Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt

**Susan Elliott**

President & CEO, National Committee on American Foreign Policy

**Ismahane Elouafi**

Chief Scientist at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

**Nina Fedoroff**

Former Science Advisor to the US Department of State; Recipients of the US President's National Medal of Science (digital speaker)

**Wendy Fisher**

President of the Board of Trustees of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation

**Nathalie de Gaulle**

Partner and co-founder SOCIETER;  
Senior Advisor TENERO

**Trudy Gold**

former C.E.O of the London Jewish Cultural Centre

**Wu Hailong**

President, Chinese Public Diplomacy Association  
(digital speaker)

**Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu**

Secretary-General, OIC 2004-2014

**Garry Jacobs**

President World Academy of Art and Sciences

**Mats Karlsson**

Former Vice-President of the World Bank

**Phoebe Koundouri**

Prof. Athens University of Economics and Business,  
Co-Chair SDSN Greece (digital speaker)

**David Merkel**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S.  
Department of State 2005-2007

**Emomali Nasriddinzoda**

Assistant to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on Social Development and Public Relations

**Marina Pisklakova-Parker**

Founding Member, Every Woman Treaty

**Ronit Raphael**

Founder, L.Raphael

**Paul Revay**

Former Director, Trilateral Europe, member of the Board of Trustees of Friends of Europe

**Hedva Ser**

Goodwill Ambassador and Special Envoy for Cultural Diplomacy, UNESCO

**Jeffrey Sachs**

Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN on SDG (digital speaker)

**Symeon G. Tsomokos**

Founder & President, Delphi Economic Forum

**Nguyen Anh Tuan**

Co-Founder and CEO, Boston Global Forum

**Necdet Unuvar**

Rector of the Ankara University

**Irina Vlah**

Governor of Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia

**Mary Warlick**

former U.S. Ambassador to Serbia and Senior Foreign Service Officer

**Benedetto Zacchiroli**

President of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism

**Antonio Zanardi Landi**

Former Diplomatic Adviser to the Italian President;  
Ambassador of the Military Order of Malta to Vatican

**Antje Dombrowsky**

Filmmaker, NGIC

# PROGRAM

THE WORLD AFTER COVID-19

## 3 NOVEMBER | WEDNESDAY

### 20:00 Welcome Dinner

*Welcome Remarks:*

- Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia 1999-2007, Co-Chair NGIC
- Ismail Serageldin, Vice-President of the World Bank 1992-2000, Co-Chair NGIC
- Jean Badershneider, Board of Trustees Member of the NGIC, Chair of the Board and Founding Board  
Member Global Fund to End Modern Slavery, Vice-President Exxon Mobile 2000-2013

### Presentation Of The Books:

“Nizami Ganjavi: The Poet and the Sage” by Ismail Serageldin

“Nizami Ganjavi’s Seven Beauties and other Essays on Literature” by Vaira Vike-Freiberga

## 4 NOVEMBER | THURSDAY

### 10:00- 11:30 Opening Ceremony

*Moderator:*

- Ismail Serageldin, Co-Chair NGIC, Vice President of the World Bank 1992-2000

*Keynote address:*

- Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

*Remarks:*

- Sefik Dzaferovic, Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Egils Levits, President of the Republic of Latvia (Video Message)

- Binali Yildirim, Prime Minister of Turkey 2016-2018, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly 2018-2019 on behalf of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Turkey

- His Holiness Pope Francis, Head of Catholic Church and sovereign of Vatican City State

(Message) delivered by Ismail Serageldin, Co-Chair NGIC, Vice President of the World Bank 1992-2000

- The Right Honorable Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Message)
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (Digital Speaker)
- Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva (Digital Speaker)
- Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of Croatia 2015-2020 on behalf of Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee
- Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (Video Message)
- Gordon Brown, United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education, WHO Ambassador for Global Health Financing (Video Message)
- Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia 1999-2007, Co-Chair NGIC

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE NIZAMI GANJAVI INTERNATIONAL AWARD**

*Recipients of the Nizami Ganjavi International Award 2021*

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization (Digital Speaker)
- Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva (Digital Speaker)

## **PANEL 1**

### **12:30–13:45 The Emerging Post-COVID-19 Global Order:**

*Moderator:*

- Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of Belgium 2008, 2009-2011

*Speakers:*

- Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan
- Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th UN General Assembly; Minister of European Union Affairs of the Republic of Turkey 2015-2016
- Wang Chao, President of Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (Digital Speaker)
- Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia 1999-2007; Co-Chair, NGIC
- Binali Yildirim, Prime Minister of Turkey 2016-2018, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly 2018-2019
- Ouided Bouchamaoui, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015
- Amre Moussa, Secretary-General Arab League 2001-2011, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt 1991-2001

### **13:45 – 15:00 Lunch**

#### **Special Address**

- Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, Prime Minister of the UK 2007-2010 (video message)  
“The Afghan Refugees Mission”
- Wendy Fisher, President of the Board of Trustees of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation

# PANEL 2

## 15:00 – 16:15 The New World Economy:

*Moderator:*

- Rosen Plevneliev, President of Bulgaria 2012-2017

*Speakers:*

- Ehud Barak, Prime Minister of Israel 1999-2001

- Shahmar Movsumov, Assistant to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of the Department of Economic Issues and Innovative Development Policy of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan

- Igor Luksic, Prime Minister of Montenegro 2010-2012, Minister of Foreign Affairs 2012-2016

- Petre Roman, Prime Minister of Romania 1989-1991

- Antonio Zanardi Landi, Former Diplomatic Adviser to the Italian President

- Rosalia Arteago Serrano, President of Ecuador 1997 (Digital Speaker)

# PANEL 3

## 16:45-18:00 Peace, Security and Human Rights: in New Era

*Moderator:*

- Kerry Kennedy, President Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (digital speaker)

*Special Addresses:*

- Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO (video message)

- Miguel Angel Moratinos, Under-Secretary General, High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (Video Message)

*Speakers:*

- Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of Croatia 2015-2020

- Tarja Halonen, President of Finland 2000-2012 (digital speaker)

- Mladen Ivanic, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2014-2018

- Tzipi Livni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel 2006-2009

- Mats Karlsson, former Vice President of the World Bank

- Mohamed Mahmoud Abdelsalam, Secretary-General of the Higher Committee on Human Fraternity; Co-President, Religions for Peace, Advisor of the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tayyeb

# 5 NOVEMBER | FRIDAY

## **SECTORAL ISSUES:**

In addition to these global issues, we will address essential sectoral issues. These essential sectoral issues include: vaccinating our publics and what we have learned in handling the pandemic and improving global public health as we prepare a global response to the next pandemic; The impact of COVID-19 on schooling and the future of education; ensuring food and nutrition security for all despite supply chain disruptions and climate challenges; science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and how to transform the global economies and the cities of the future.

## PANEL 4

### **09:30- 11:00 Combating Climate Change and Meeting the Global Need for Energy: How do we do both?**

#### **Moderator:**

- Robert Cekuta, former Ambassador of USA to Azerbaijan

#### **Speakers:**

- Chiril Gaburici, Prime Minister of Moldova 2015
- María Fernanda Espinosa, 73rd President of the UN General Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador 2017-2018, Minister of Defense 2012-2014
- Parviz Shahbazov, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Ouided Bouchamaoui, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015
- Mary Warlick, former U.S. Ambassador to Serbia and Senior Foreign Service Officer
- Abdulaziz Altwaijri, Former Director General of ISESCO
- Ana Palacio, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain 2002-2004
- Lazar Comanescu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania 2008, 2015-2017; Secretary General of the Permanent International Secretariat (PERMIS) of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

# PANEL 5

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## 11:30-13:00 Public Health and the People's vaccine:

**Moderator:**

- Susan Elliott, President National Committee on American Foreign Policy

**Speakers:**

- Dalia Itzik, President of Israel 2007, President of Knesset 2006-2009
- Teymur Musayev, First Deputy Minister of Health, Acting Minister of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Danilo Turk, President of Slovenia 2007-2012 (Digital Speaker)
- Laimdota Straujuma, Prime Minister of Latvia 2014-2016 (Digital Speaker)
- Emomali Nasriddinzoda, Assistant to the President of the Republic of Tajikistan on Social Development and Public Relations

## 13:00 – 14:45 Luncheon Discussion

“Climate Change and Sustainable Development”

**Moderator:**

- Zlatko Lagumdžija, Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2001-2002, deputy Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2012-2015

**Special Address:**

- Maria Fernanda Espinosa, 73rd President of the UN General Assembly, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador 2017-2018, Minister of Defense 2012-2014
- Nathalie de Gaulle, Partner and co-founder SOCIETER; Senior Advisor TENEO
- Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the UN on SDG; Special Adviser to the NGIC (Digital Speaker)

# PANEL 6

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## 14:45 – 16:00 Promoting Food and Nutrition Security

**Moderator:**

- Ismail Serageldin, Co-Chair, NGIC; Vice-President of the World Bank 1992-2000

**Speakers:**

- Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of Mauritius 2015-2018

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- Ismahane Elouafi, Chief Scientist at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations
- Nina Fedoroff, Former Science Advisor to the US Department of State; Recipients of the US President's National Medal of Science (digital speaker)
- Adel El Beltagy, Chair of the International Dryland Development Commission; Former Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt

# PANEL 7

## 16:30 -18:00 Youth Speak, We Listen

**Moderator:**

- Kateryna Yushchenko, First Lady of Ukraine 2005-2010

**Speaker:**

- Irina Vlah, Governor of Autonomous Territorial Unit of Gagauzia

## 20:00 Dinner in partnership with Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights

**Moderator:**

- Kerry Kennedy, President Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (Digital Speaker)

# 6 NOVEMBER | SATURDAY

**REGIONAL ISSUES.**

We will also have a number of sessions devoted to regional issues, including: regional development in the South Caucasus; The future of Europe and European integration; New engines of sustained growth for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe; and much more.

# PANEL 8

## 09:00- 10:15 South Caucasus: Regional Development and Prospective for Cooperation

**Moderator:**

- Valdis Zatlers, President of Latvia 2007-2011

**Speakers:**

- Hikmat 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

- Binali Yildirim, Prime Minister of Turkey 2016-2018, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly 2018-2019

- David Merkel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State 2005-2007

- Hikmet Cetin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey 1991-1994

- Robert Cekuta, US Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan 2015-2018

# PANEL 9

## 11:00- 12:15 Assessing Western Balkans: The Way Forward

### Moderator:

- Zlatko Lagumdžija, Prime Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2001-2002, deputy Prime Minister 2012-2015

### Speakers:

- Petar Stoyanov, President of Bulgaria 1997-2002
- Boris Tadic, President of Serbia 2004-2012
- Filip Vujanovic, President of Montenegro 2003-2018
- Ivo Josipovic, President of Croatia 2010-2015
- Jan Fischer, Prime Minister of Czech Republic 2009-2010 (Digital Speaker)
- Susan Elliott, President National Committee on American Foreign Policy

# PANEL 10

## 12:15- 13:30 Eastern Partnership: What Is Potential?

### Moderator:

- Eka Tkeshelashvili, deputy Prime Minister of Georgia 2010-2012

### Speakers:

- Ana Birchall, deputy Prime Minister of Romania 2018-2019
- Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine 2005-2010
- Valdis Zatlers, President of Latvia 2007-2011
- Petru Lucinschi, President of Moldova 1997-2001

## 13:30 – 14:45 Luncheon Discussion

### “Multilateralism”

### Special Address:

- HRH Prince Turki AlFaisal AlSaud, Chairman of the Board, King Faisal Center for Research & Islamic Studies
- Amre Moussa, Secretary General, Arab League 2001-2011
- Tzipi Livni, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel 2006-2009
- Ana Palacio, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain 2002-2004

# PANEL 11

## 14:45- 16:00 Future of EU on the Global Stage

*Moderator:*

- Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia 1999-2007; Co-Chair, NGIC

*Speakers:*

- Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of Croatia 2015-2020

- Yves Leterme, Prime Minister of Belgium 2008, 2009-2011

- Emil Constantinescu, President of Romania 1996-2000

- Nguyen Anh Tuan, Co-Founder and CEO, Boston Global Forum

## 20:00 Closing Dinner

*Moderator:*

- Ismail Serageldin, Vice-President of the World Bank 1992-2000; Co-Chair, NGIC

*Speakers:*

- Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva (Digital Speaker)

- Chau Chak Wing, Co-Chair of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center Global Circle (video message)

- Natalia Garvilita, Prime Minister of Moldova (video message)

- Vladimir Norov, Secretary-General, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (video message)

- Marianna V. Vardinoyannis, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO (video message)

- HRH Prince Turki AlFaisal AlSaud, Chairman of the Board, King Faisal Center for Research & Islamic Studies

- Vaira Vike-Freiberga, President of Latvia 1999-2007; Co-Chair, NGIC

