

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



1015 15th ST, NW Suite 380,
Washington DC 20005
Phone: 1-202-864-6958
E-mail: info@caspianshipolicy.org

ABOUT US

The Caspian Policy Center (CPC) is an independent, nonprofit research think tank based in Washington D.C. Economic, political, energy, and security issues of the Caspian region constitute the central research focus of the Center.

CPC aims at becoming a primary research and debate platform in the Caspian region with relevant publications, events, projects, and media productions to nurture a comprehensive understanding of the intertwined affairs of the Caspian region.

With an inclusive, scholarly, and innovative approach, the Caspian Policy Center presents a platform where diverse voices from academia, business, and policy world from both the region and the nation's capital interact to produce distinct ideas and insights to the outstanding issues of the Caspian region.



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Ambassador (Ret.)
Susan M. Elliott



Ambassador (Ret.)
Richard E. Hoagland



Kate Kallot



Ambassador Erzhan
Kazykhan



Rear Admiral (Ret.)
Ron MacLaren



Ambassador (Ret.)
Allan Mustard



Major General U.S. Army
(Ret.) Michael S. Repass



Lieutenant General U.S. Army
(Ret.) Darsie Rogers, Jr.



Lieutenant General
(Ret.) John Mulhol-
land Jr.



Luke Coffey



Dr. Peter Frankopan



Dr. Roger Kangas



Dr. Soner Cagaptay



Dr. Marlene Laruelle



Dr. S. Fredrick Starr

STAFF AND EXPERTS



Efgan Nifti
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*Security and Politics
Program Chair*



**Ambassador (Ret.)
Robert F. Cekuta**
*Energy and Economy
Program Chair*



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Allan Mustard**
Senior Fellow



**Major General U.S. Army
(Ret.) Michael S. Repass**
Senior Fellow



**Rear Admiral (Ret.)
Ron MacLaren**
Senior Fellow



**Ambassador (Ret.)
Susan M. Elliott**
Senior Fellow



**Lieutenant General (Ret.)
Darsie Rogers, Jr.**
Senior Fellow



Akbota Karibayeva
Research Fellow



Jeremy Cohen
External Affairs Officer



Nicole Wolkov
*Academic and Research
Coordinator*



Daniel Lehmann
Programs Associate



Irada Dolloff
*Communications
Manager*



Nicole Anselmo
Executive Assistant



Dante Schulz
Research Assistant

OUR PUBLICATIONS BY THE NUMBERS



ARTICLES

92



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS
NEWSLETTERS

41



MEDIA APPEARANCES
AND MENTIONS

100+



POLICY BRIEFS

7



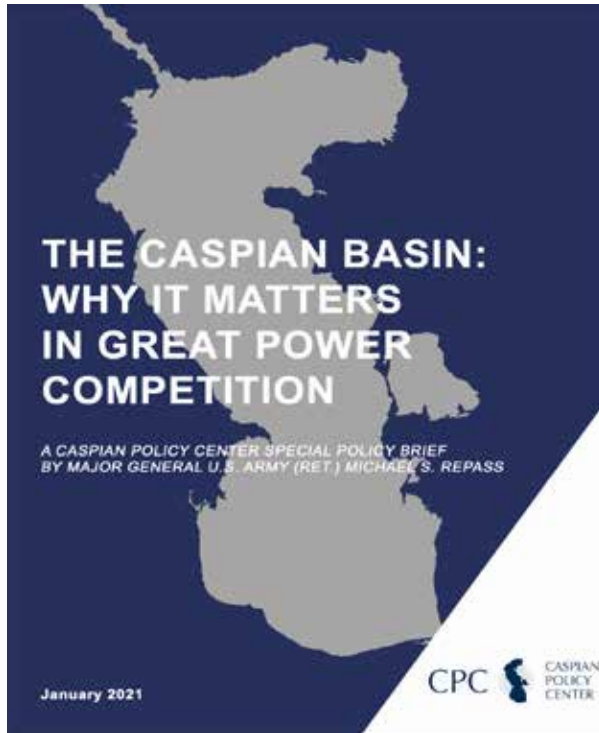
SPECIAL
EDITORIALS

10

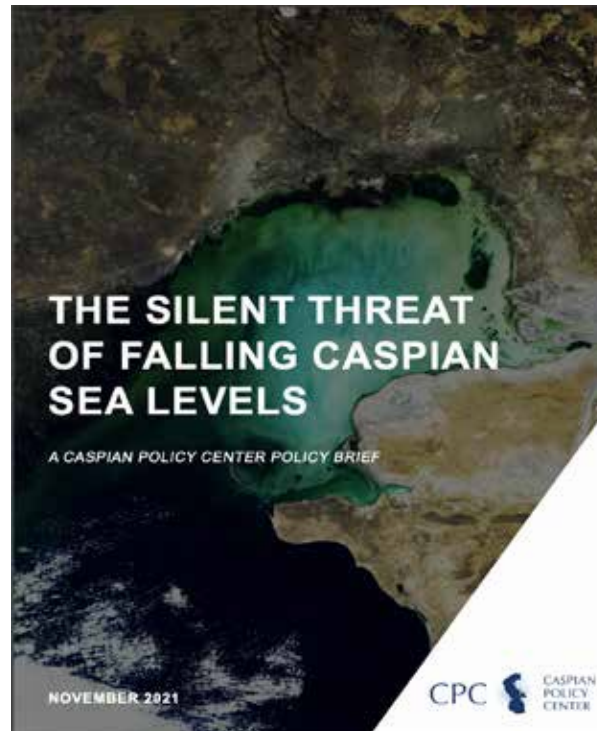
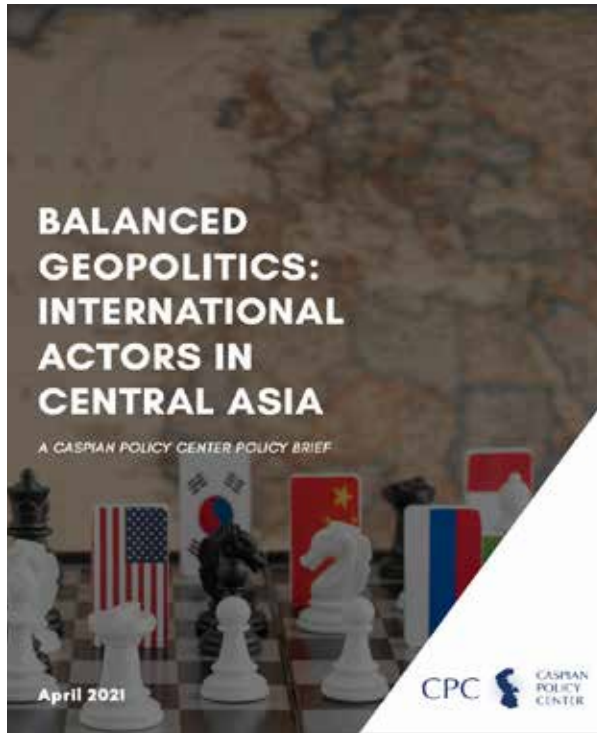


CASPIAN AFFAIRS
MAGAZINE

REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS



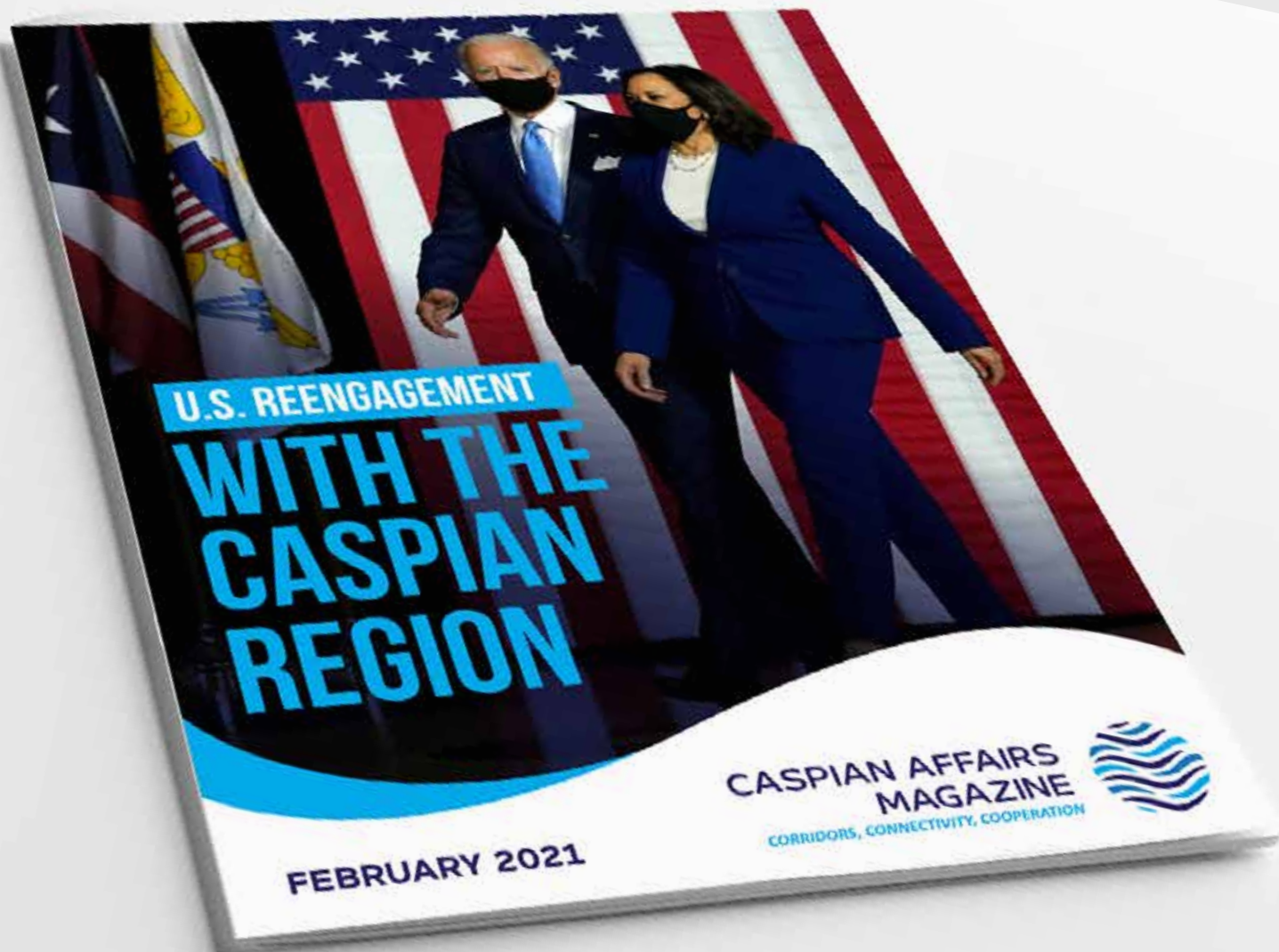
REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS



REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS



CASPIAN AFFAIRS MAGAZINE: ISSUE 5. U.S. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CASPIAN REGION



OUR 2021 WEBINARS

January 27 | The Completion of the Southern Gas Corridor: An American Diplomatic Success, But What Comes Next?

Speakers: **Ambassador Elin Suleymanov** of Azerbaijan; **Ambassador Floreta Faber** of Albania; **Ambassador David Bakradze** of Georgia; **Sinan Ertay**, Deputy Chief of Mission of the Turkish Embassy; **Francis Fannon**, Former Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources at the U.S. Department of State; **Ambassador (ret.) Richard Morningstar**, Director and Chairman of the Global Energy Center at the Atlantic Council; **Eshad Nassirov**, Vice-President for Investment and Marketing at SOCAR; and **Robert Scher**, Head of International Affairs at BP America.

March 3 | A New Caspian Policy for the New Administration

Speakers: **Dr. Roger Kangas**, Academic Dean and Professor of Central Asian Studies at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies; **George Kent**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State; **Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland**, Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs; **Ambassador (ret.) Robert Cekuta**, Former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Energy Resources; and **Brianne Todd**, Assistant Professor of Central Asian Studies at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies.

April 14 | Economic Freedom in the Caspian Region

Speakers: **Rear Admiral (ret.) Ron MacLaren**, Senior Fellow at the Caspian Policy Center; **Ambassador (ret.) Terry Miller**, Director of the Center for International Trade and Economics at the Heritage Foundation; **Dr. Anthony Kim**, Research Manager and Editor of the Index of Economic Freedom at the Heritage Foundation; and **Ambassador (ret.) Allan Mustard**, Senior Fellow at the Caspian Policy Center.

OUR 2021 WEBINARS

April 29 | International Actors in the Caspian Region

Speakers: **Dr. Peter Frankopan**, Professor of Global History at Oxford University; **Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland**, Senior Fellow at the Caspian Policy Center; **Major General (ret.) Michael Repass** of the Caspian Policy Center; **Dr. Roger Kangas**, Academic Dean and Professor of Central Asian Studies at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies; and **Niva Yau**, Researcher at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek.

May 14 | Thirty Years of Partnership: A Conversation with Four U.S. Ambassadors to Kazakhstan

Speakers: **Ambassador Yerzhan Ashikbayev**, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States; **Brianne Todd**, Assistant Professor of Central Asian Studies at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies; **Ambassador (ret.) William Courtney**; **Ambassador (ret.) John Ordway**; **Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland**; and **Ambassador (ret.) George Krol**.

June 22 | Preserving Kazakh Musical Heritage: An Anthology of the Kazakh Kyui

Speakers: **Ambassador Yerzhan Ashikbayev**, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States; **Dr. Muslim Khassenov**, Director of the Amanat Project; **Bakytbek Smagul**, Member of the Parliament of Kazakhstan; and **Ambassador (ret.) Susan Elliott**, Senior Fellow at the Caspian Policy Center.

August 19 | Strategies to Include Economic Growth: Women's Entrepreneurship in Tajikistan

Speakers: **Ambassador (ret.) Susan Elliott**, Senior Fellow at the Caspian Policy Center and Former U.S. Ambassador to Tajikistan (2012-2015); **Dr. Gulbakhor Makhkamova**, Founder and Chairwoman of the National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan; **Nasibakhon Aminova**, Executive Director of the National Association of Small and Medium Business of the Republic of Tajikistan; and **Malika Jurakulova**, Gender Advisor for USAID Tajikistan.

OUR 2021 WEBINARS

August 31 | 30 Years Since Semipalatinsk: U.S.-Kazakhstani Cooperation in Nuclear Threat Reduction

Speakers: **Ambassador Yerzhan Ashikbayev**, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States; **Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland**, Security and Politics Chair at the Caspian Policy Center; **Andrew Weber**, Senior Fellow at the Council on Strategic Risks, and Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical & Biological Defense Programs (2009–2014); **Dr. Erlan Batyrbekov**, Director General of the National Nuclear Center; and **Leon Ratz**, Senior Program Officer for Materials Risk Management at the Nuclear Threat Initiative.

October 14 | Japan and Korea's Growing Economic Engagement in the Caspian

Speakers: **Ambassador (ret.) Robert Cekuta**, Energy and Economy Program Chair at the Caspian Policy Center; **Hiroyuki Suzuki**, Chief Representative in Washington of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation; **Dr. Timur Dadabaev**, Director of the Special Program for Japanese and Eurasian Studies at the University of Tsukuba; **Dr. Sabina Insabayeva**, Assistant Professor of Central Eurasian Studies at the University of Tsukuba; and **Dante Schulz**, Research Assistant at the Caspian Policy Center.

December 8 | Bishkek at the Ballot Box: An Analysis of the Kyrgyz Parliamentary Election

Speakers: **Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland**, Security and Politics Program Chair at the Caspian Policy Center; **Dr. Erica Marat**, Chair of Regional and Analytical Studies at the National Defense University; **Dr. Asel Doolotkeldieva**, Senior Lecturer and Associate Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy; and **Dr. Aijan Sharshenova**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the OSCE Academy.

OUR HEADLINE EVENTS

5TH ANNUAL TRANS-CASPIAN FORUM

CPC



CASPIAN
POLICY
CENTER



U.S.
COMMERCIAL
SERVICE
United States of America
Department of Commerce



INTERNATIONAL
TRADE
ADMINISTRATION



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

On June 9-10, the Caspian Policy Center (CPC) organized and hosted the 5th Annual Trans-Caspian Forum to explore the business, trade, and investment opportunities between the United States and the Trans-Caspian corridor countries.

This year's forum was co-organized by the **Embassies of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan**, and supported by the **U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Agency for International Development**, with the participation of the **U.S. Department of State and U.S. National Security Council**.

Roya Rahmani, Ambassador of Afghanistan to the United States; **Elin Suleymanov**, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the United States; **David Bakradze**, Ambassador of Georgia to the United States; **Yerzhan Ashikbayev**, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the United States; **Baktybek Amanbaev**, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States; **Javlon Vakhobov**, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the United States; and **Sinan Ertay**, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Turkey to the United States.

OUR HEADLINE EVENTS



States joined the Forum to share their thoughts on how their countries would mount strong recoveries in 2021-2022 that can be supported by further international investment into the region and close collaboration with the European Union and the United States.

Matt Murray, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Trade Policy and Negotiations, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State; **Eric Green**, Acting Senior Director for Russia and Central Asia, U.S. National Security Council; and **Margot Ellis**, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, U.S. Agency for International Development delivered keynote remarks at the ministerial roundtable that focused on the United States' role in the region's foreign policy development to secure economic sovereignty, fight international terrorism, and support investment and private sector growth.

Emil Majidov, Advisor to Minister of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan; **Lasha Darsalia**, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia; **Zhaslan Madiyev**, Deputy Chairman of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan; **Yavuz Selim Kiran**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey; **Abdurahmon Safarali Abdurahmonzoda**, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan joined the ministerial roundtable to provide their thoughts on the interregional and international opportunities for strategic partnerships in the Caspian region.

OUR HEADLINE EVENTS

Matt Edwards, Director of the Office of Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia, Global Market-U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Security and Politics Program Chair at the Caspian Policy Center, moderated an insightful conversation among the Forum participants on the connectivity and infrastructure development in the Caspian region.

The panelists, **Odilbek Isakov**, Deputy Minister of Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan; **Arif Mammadov**, Head of Transport Policy Department, Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan; **Ketevan Salukvadze**, Head of Transport and Logistics Development Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia; **Taleh Ziyadov**, General Director of Baku International Sea Trade Port; **Abay Turikpenbayev**, President of the Aktau International Sea Trade Port; **Hiroyuki Suzuki**, Chief Representative in Washington, D.C., Japan Bank of International Cooperation; **Farhad Guliyev**, Deputy Chairman, Azerbaijan Caspian Shipping Company; and **Victor Kipiani**, Chair of Geocase discussed the feasibility of new infrastructure projects and the mechanisms to appropriately finance these endeavors by foreign investors.

Kurt Donnelly, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Energy Resources, U.S. Department of State opened up the second day of the Forum on June 10 with his keynote remarks that focused on utilizing the untapped potential of renewable energy in the Caspian region while also continuing to responsibly utilize its hydrocarbon reserves.

Panelists, **Elnur Soltanov**, Deputy Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan; **Aliya Shalabekova**, Vice Minister of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan; **Öztürk Selvitop**, Director General at the Ministry of Energy and Natural Sources of the Republic of Turkey; **Vitaliy Baylarbayov**, Deputy Vice President, State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Investments and Marketing; **Giorgi Chikovani**, CEO, Georgian Energy Development Fund; **Robert Scher**, Head of International Affairs, BP; **Fawad Quraishi**, Vice President and Head of Representative Office in Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, Equinor; and **Eldor Tulyakov**, Executive Director of Development Strategy Center, Uzbekistan discussed the role that the commercially successful energy projects, such as the Southern Gas Corridor, play in the region's economy and geopolitics, and future plans to diversify the Caspian's energy portfolio beyond hydrocarbons.

Harry Bader, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation, U.S. Agency for International Development, delivered keynote remarks on the last panel of the Forum that focused on mechanisms to encourage small business development and economic participation by historically disadvantaged groups.

OUR HEADLINE EVENTS

The final panel, moderated by **Ambassador (ret.) Susan Elliott**, a Senior Fellow at the Caspian Policy Center and former U.S. ambassador to Tajikistan, facilitated a productive dialogue among the panelists **Orkhan Mammadov**, Chairman of the Management Board of the Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan; **Avtandil Kasradze**, Head of Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency; **Lazzat Ramazanova**, Chairman of the National Commission on Women's Affairs and Family and Demographic Policy under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan; **Malika Jurakulova**, Gender Adviser at the USAID Tajikistan Mission; **Umid Abidkhadjaev**, Director of Institute for Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research under the Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction of the Republic of Uzbekistan on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship as a vital way of rebuilding the region's economy in the post-COVID world.

PRESS RELEASE

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OUR HEADLINE EVENTS



BRIEFING: Azerbaijan in 2021: Briefing with Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim **September 1 | Washington, DC**

The Caspian Policy Center was honored to host **Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim** of Azerbaijan for his first public event as Ambassador to the United States. At this event, **Ambassador (ret.) Robert Cekuta** moderated a discussion on Azerbaijan's priorities following the Second Karabakh War and its plans for reintegrating the territories surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh. The discussion was attended by experts from the government, business, and think tank communities of Washington. The participants also considered the role of the United States in security and economic development in the South Caucasus, and how it can work with partners in the region to secure a lasting peace.

OUR HEADLINE EVENTS



Briefing with Ambassador Farrukh Hamralizoda Washington, DC

The Caspian Policy Center held a briefing for members of the advisory board with **Ambassador Farrukh Hamralizoda**, Ambassador of Tajikistan to the United States. The CPC board and Ambassador Hamralizoda discussed regional integration, Tajikistan's relationship with Afghanistan, climate change, and energy security.

OUR HEADLINE EVENTS



BRIEFING: Turkey and the Caspian Region: Briefing with Ambassador Hasan Murat Mercan October 12 | Washington, DC

The Caspian Policy Center had the pleasure of hosting **Ambassador Hasan Murat Mercan** of Turkey to welcome him to his new post as Turkey's Ambassador to the United States. At this event, Ambassador Mercan gave reflections on Turkey's role in the Caspian region and how that role might change in the coming years. In addition, he offered insight on the state of U.S.-Turkey relations and what those might mean in the Caspian. **Ambassador (ret.) Robert Cekuta** moderated the discussion attended by representatives from think tanks, governments, and businesses.

OUR HEADLINE EVENTS



ROUNDTABLE: One Year After the Nagorno-Karabakh War: A Need for Initiative **October 19 | Zoom Roundtable**

The Caspian Policy Center held a roundtable discussion on conditions at the anniversary of the Second Nagorno-Karabakh and what the war and its outcomes mean for security and connectivity in the region going forward. The event, moderated by Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland, former Interim OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair, and featuring Ambassador (ret.) Robert F. Cekuta, U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan (2015–2018), and Ambassador (ret.) John Ordway, U.S. Ambassador to Armenia (2001–2004), included leaders from the think tank, government, and academic communities from the United States and across the Caspian region. The event participants took a sober look at the effects that the war had on both Armenia and Azerbaijan and how both can pursue peace moving forward.

OUR HEADLINE EVENTS



CONFERENCE: Caspian Security Conference November 16-17 | Zoom Conference

The Caspian Policy Center and the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESEA Center) of the U.S. National Defense University hosted the inaugural Caspian Security Conference with experts from think tanks, government, and academia to discuss the next steps for the Caspian region following the U.S. and other NATO forces' withdrawal and the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

On the first day of the conference, the live discussion was focused on formulating a unified regional response to Afghanistan and the role that Caspian countries can play to further engage the country in regional discussions. The panelists, **Victor Kipiani**, Chair of Geocase; **Yar Mohabbat**, former Charge d'Affaires of Afghanistan to the United States (1994-1997); **Ambassador (ret.) Farid Shafiyev**, Chairman of the Analysis of International Relations Center; **Dr. Timur Shaimerzgenov**, Vice Minister of Defense and Aerospace Industry of Kazakhstan; and **Dr. Akram Umarov**, Fulbright Visiting Scholar at the University of Pittsburgh, discussed the future of Caspian engagement with Afghanistan and presented important steps for approaching the Taliban.

OUR HEADLINE EVENTS

The webinar, moderated by **Brianne Todd**, Professor at the NESACenter, facilitated an open and honest assessment of the legitimacy of a Taliban government and the dilemmas of balancing trade, security, and humanitarian assistance with the ongoing terrorism activity supported by the Taliban. **Dr. Roger Kangas**, Academic Dean of the NESACenter, closed the first day of the conference by noting that the security challenges surrounding Afghanistan remain complex and warrant further conversations on the second day of the conference.

On the second day of the conference, the live discussion focused on supporting intra-regional security cooperation and the economic impacts of the Taliban takeover in both Afghanistan and the neighboring region.

Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland, Senior Fellow at the CPC, moderated the insightful panel analyzing current engagement from the Caspian region, India, Pakistan, Turkey and beyond, and the role the United States can play in supporting regional security.

The panelists, **Ambassador (ret.) Ronald Neumann**, President of the American Academy of Diplomacy and Former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan (2005–2007); **Ambassador (ret.) Alper Coşkun**, Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; **Ambassador (ret.) Ali Jalali**, Distinguished Professor at the NESACenter and Former Interior Minister of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (2003–2005); **Dr. Rashmini Koparkar**, Assistant Professor at the Center for Russian and Central Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University; **Dr. Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili**, Director of the Center of Governance and Markets at the University of Pittsburgh; and **Salman Zaidi**, Director of Programs at the Jinnah Institute discussed the need for an international effort to assist the regional countries who have been left to deal with the consequences of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. After a successful inaugural conference, CPC and the NESACenter look forward to hosting further iterations in the future.

PRESS RELEASE

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OUR HEADLINE EVENTS



BRIEFING: Caspian Ambassadorial Briefing: The Organization of Turkic States December 1 | Washington, DC

The Caspian Policy Center held a briefing for members of the policymaking and think tank communities on the Organization of Turkic States. The briefing followed the November 12 Turkic Council Summit, which saw the Council reorganized into the Organization of Turkic States. The briefing was moderated by Caspian Policy Center's **Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland**, and **Ambassador (ret.) Allan Mustard**. The briefing included remarks and analysis by **Ambassador Khazar Ibrahim** of Azerbaijan, **Ambassador Yerzhan Ashikbayev** of Kazakhstan, **Ambassador Baktybek Amanbaev** of the Kyrgyz Republic, **Ambassador Hasan Murat Mercan** of Turkey, and **Ambassador Javlon Vakhobov** of Uzbekistan. The briefing focused on the purpose and goals of the Organization of Turkic States, as the participants discussed its potential roles in bringing about increased partnership among the Turkic countries.

PRESS RELEASE

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OUR HEADLINE EVENTS



BRIEFING: Caspian Ambassadorial Briefing with Ambassador Amanbaev of the Kyrgyz Republic December 14 Washington, DC

The Caspian Policy Center held a briefing for members of the advisory board with **Ambassador Baktybek Amanbaev**, Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States. The CPC board discussed Kyrgyzstan's recent elections, as well as the ways in which the United States government could increase its engagement with the Kyrgyz public and private sectors.

PRESS RELEASE

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TRIPS TO THE REGION



CPC experts meet with Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, Azerbaijan's Minister of Foreign Affairs on their trip to Baku

Azerbaijan, May 17-23

Delegation: Efgan Nifti, Ambassador (ret.) Robert Cekuta, Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland, Major General (ret.) Michael Repass, Dr. Roger Kangas, Jeremy Cohen

CPC visited Azerbaijan in May to assess the post-conflict situation and the country's economic development. The trip included meetings with key government ministries, including the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Energy, and Ministry of Communication. The delegation also met with leadership at the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic to discuss the company's plans for the future and the role of Azerbaijan in regional energy security as well as to make a site visit to the Port of Baku at Alat to observe the port's infrastructure and capacity to promote Trans-Caspian trade.

In addition to its meetings in Baku, the delegation made a fact-finding visit to Agdam to note the effects of the 2020 Karabakh War. The delegation received a tour of key sites in the ruined city and was informed of plans for post-conflict development and demining activities.

TRIPS TO THE REGION



Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland and Efgan Nifti meet in Nur-Sultan with Ambassador Erzhan Kazykhan, Special Representative of the President of Kazakhstan for International Cooperation

Kazakhstan, July 9-15

Delegation: Efgan Nifti, Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland, Akbota Karibayeva, Jeremy Cohen

A CPC delegation visited Kazakhstan in July to assess the state of the country's COVID-19 response and the strategies of post-pandemic recovery; understand current policy priorities of the Kazakhstani government and other domestic groups vis-à-vis the U.S.-Kazakhstan bilateral cooperation, regional connectivity and integration, and broader geopolitical situation in the region; as well as identify business trends and opportunities for expanding U.S. engagement in line with U.S. interests in such key areas as the development of renewable energy potential, decarbonization, climate change, water and food security, women's economic empowerment, Eurasian energy security, regional cooperation, critical infrastructure development, and more. The trip included meetings in Nur-Sultan with government ministries, major companies, and think tanks.

The delegation also visited the city of Turkistan to assess its rising role as a tourism hub in Kazakhstan. The delegation met with the leadership of Kodja Ahmed Yassawi University to learn about the role of the Turkic world in the city's growth and educational institutions. Furthermore, CPC received a tour of the tourism development area from the Akimat of Turkistan Oblast and saw the city's sites and infrastructure.

TRIPS TO THE REGION



CPC delegation in a meeting with Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov, Uzbekistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs during their visit to Tashkent

Uzbekistan, October 24-27

Delegation: Efgan Nifti, Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland, Jeremy Cohen

Caspian Policy Center visited Uzbekistan in October to assess the country's economic and political development under President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, role in regional integration, and international position following the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. The delegation met with government ministries and think tanks to learn about Uzbekistan's foreign policy perspectives and plans for economic development and liberalization. The delegation visited a number of polling sites throughout Tashkent for the 2021 Presidential Elections. The team also went on a site-visit to Samarkand where members learned about the history of Uzbekistan and the role of the Silk Road in the Caspian region's past.

TRIPS TO THE REGION



Azerbaijan, October 27-November 1

Delegation: Efgan, Nifti, Ambassador (ret.) Richard Hoagland, Dr. Roger Kangas

The Caspian Policy Center delegation visited Azerbaijan in October to assess the economic and political development one year after the 2020 Armenia-Azerbaijan War. On October 30, the delegation traveled to Azerbaijan's southern border with Iran to see in detail the areas, including the mountain city of Shusha, that Baku regained control of one year ago in the war for Nagorno-Karabakh. Azerbaijan is rebuilding some of the main roads that had been neglected for years, fields are being cleared for planting, key structures in ruined cities are being restored, and some new settlements are under construction. Members of the team were among the first American citizens to be allowed to visit Shusha.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE

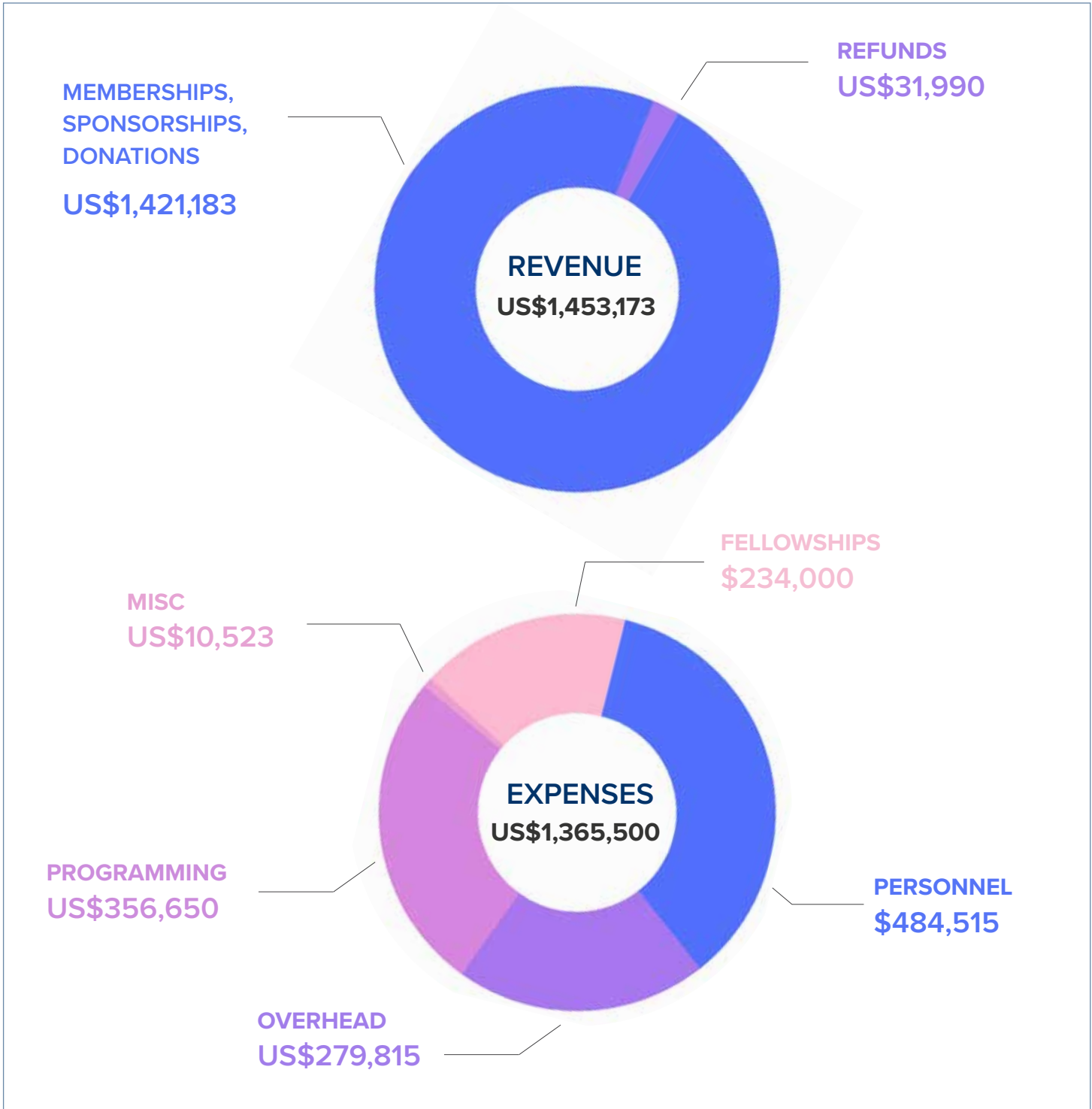
US\$1,453,173.00

EXPENSES

US\$1,365,503.00

CHANGE IN ASSETS

US\$87,670.00



1015 15th ST NW, SUITE 380
WASHINGTON, DC 20005
202.864.6958
INFO@CASPIANPOLICY.ORG
CASPIANPOLICY.ORG

CPC



CASPIAN
POLICY
CENTER



[caspiancenter](#)