

Georgia Defence & Security Conference | **GDSC**
Batumi 2014

Sheraton Batumi Hotel, Batumi, Georgia
June 26-28, 2014

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, June 26

- Entire Day** Arrival at Tbilisi/Batumi International Airport
Registration for the Conference upon check-in
- 8:00pm** Reception at the Open Pool Sheraton Batumi Hotel hosted by the Minister of Defence of Georgia Irakli Alasania (dress code: casual)

Friday, June 27

- 7:00-8:55am** Breakfast
- 9:00-9:15am** Opening of the Conference
- Welcoming Remarks by **Irakli Alasania**, Minister of Defence of Georgia
- Key-note speech by **Giorgi Margvelashvili**, President of Georgia
- 9:15-10:45am** **PANEL 1 - Secure Europe: Reshaping Security Paradigm and Seeking for New Approaches**
- Moderator:** **Vasil Sikharulidze**, Chairman, Atlantic Council of Georgia
- Speakers:** **J.D. Gordon**, Opinion Columnist, US
Lauri Lepik, Permanent Representative of Estonia to NATO
James Sherr, Associate Fellow, Chatham House, UK
Raimonds Vējonis, Minister of Defence of Latvia
- 10:45-11:15am** Coffee Break
- 11:15-12:45pm** **PANEL 2 - EU Beyond its Borders: Engagement for Security and Stability**
- Moderator:** **Elene Khoshtaria**, Co-founder, Georgia's Reforms Associates
- Speakers:** **Bogdan Klich**, Senator, Republic of Poland
Andrew Murrison, MP, Minister for International Security Strategy, UK
Maciej Popowski, Deputy Secretary General for the External Action Service, EU
LTG Wolfgang Wosolsobe, Director General of the EU Military Staff
- 12:45-13:00pm** Opening of the Exhibition "Georgia in the Heart of Afghanistan" by Augusto Ferrer-Dalmau

13:00-2:15pm

Lunch

2:15-3:45pm

PANEL 3 - The Wider Black Sea Region: Strategic Pillar for Euro-Atlantic Security

Moderator: **Diba Nigar Göksel**, Editor in Chief, Turkish Policy Quarterly
Speakers: **Giorgi Baramidze**, Vice Speaker of the Parliament of Georgia
Ariel Cohen, Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation, US
Valeriu Nicut, State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning, Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Romania
Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, Professor of European and Eurasian Studies, US

3:45-4:15pm

Coffee Break

4:15-5:45pm

PANEL 4 - Post- ISAF NATO: Maintaining Capabilities and Interoperability

Moderator: **Robert Hamilton**, Deputy Chief, Security Assistant Office, Office of U.S. Defence Representative-Pakistan
Speakers: **LTG (R) Jürgen Bornemann**, Former Director General NATO IMS, Germany
MG Vakhtang Kapanadze, Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Georgia
Sven Mikser, Minister of Defence of the Estonia
Marijus Velička, Vice Minister of National Defence of Lithuania

5:45-8:00pm

Free Time

8:00-10:00pm

Dinner Hosted by the Minister of Defence of Georgia Irakli Alasania and the Chairman of the Government of Autonomous Republic of Ajara Archil Khabadze (dress code: smart casual)

Saturday, June 28

7:00-9:55am

Breakfast

10:00-11:30am

PANEL 5 - Georgia: Knocking on NATO's Door

Moderator: **Lincoln Mitchell**, Research Scholar at the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University
Speakers: **Irakli Alasania**, Minister of Defence of Georgia
Kęstutis Jankauskas, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to NATO
Richard Norland, Ambassador of the United States to Georgia
David Usupashvili, Chairman of the Parliament of Georgia

11:30-12:00pm

Coffee Break

12:00-1:30pm

PANEL 6 - Reinvigorating the Alliance at the 2014 NATO Summit

Moderator: **Grigol Mgaloblishvili**, Distinguished Faculty Chair, College of International Security Affairs, National Defense University

Speakers: **Lauri Lepik**, Permanent Representative of Estonia to NATO
Stelian Stoian, Permanent Representative of Romania to NATO
Daniel Twining, Senior Fellow and Director at the German Marshall Fund of the United States
Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President, Atlantic Council of the United States

1:30-1:45pm

Closing of the Conference

Key-note speech by **Irakli Garibashvili**, Prime Minister of Georgia

Closing Remarks by **Irakli Alasania**, Minister of Defence of Georgia

1:45-3:30pm

Lunch

3:45-7:30pm

Free time

7:30-9:30pm

Reception on the Occasion of Signing of the Association Agreement with European Union, hosted by Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Gharibashvili (attendance by invitation only, dress code: formal)

7:30-9:30pm

Dinner Hosted by the Ministry of Defence of Georgia (dress code: smart casual)

Sunday, 29 June

Entire day

Check-out/Departure

CONFERENCE PANELISTS

Irakli Alasania

Mr. Alasania is the Minister of Defence of Georgia. He served as Georgia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (2006-2008) and acted as President's Special Representative to Georgian-Abkhaz talks. In 2012, Mr. Alasania co-founded the coalition "Georgian Dream". He was also the founder and chairman of the political party "Our Georgia-Free Democrats". Mr. Alasania held the position of the Deputy Secretary of National Security Council (2004) and the Deputy Minister of Defence. He also held the position of the first deputy minister of State Security, where he was responsible for planning and executing anti-terrorist activities and was chief of service on security issues in the office of the NSC (2001-2002). Mr. Alasania also served in the Embassy of Georgia to the United States, Canada and Mexico. He graduated from Ivane Javakishvili Tbilisi State University and Georgian Security Academy.



Giorgi Baramidze

Mr. Baramidze is a Member and Vice-chairman of the Parliament of Georgia. From 2005 until 2012 he was the Georgian State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration. He held positions of the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia and Minister of Defence of Georgia. Mr. Baramidze has been Chairman of Georgian Parliamentary Delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly and Chairman of the Faction of United Democrats in the Parliament of Georgia. He graduated from Georgian Technical University and George C. Marhsall Center for European Security Studies and Defence Economics. He was associate researcher at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy of Georgetown University.



Jurgen Bornemann

Mr. Bornemann is a retired Lieutenant General of the German Army and a distinguished Fellow of New Westminster College. In his career Mr. Bornemann has worked on senior positions in NATO and at the German Federal Ministry of Defence. At NATO Headquarters, Mr. Bornemann was Director General of International Military Staff and served as German Military Representative to MC NATO and to the EUMC. At German Federal Ministry of Defence Mr. Bornemann served as Deputy Head of Political Military Affairs and Arms Control Division. Mr. Bornemann earned his degree in economics from Hamburg's Federal Armed Forces University.



Ariel Cohen

Mr. Cohen joined Heritage foundation in 1992 and is now a Senior Research Fellow. He has served as a consultant to both the executive branch and the private sector on policy toward Russia, Eastern and Central Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. A former member of the Board of Directors of the California-Russia Trade Association (1985-1992), Mr. Cohen has managed media research projects for Radio Liberty's then-Soviet audience. He is the author of the book "Russian Imperialism: Development and Crisis". He also co-authored and edited Eurasia in Balance, which focuses on the power shift in the region after the September 11 attacks. In addition, he has written nearly 500 articles and 25 book chapters. He earned his doctorate at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.



Irakli Gharibashvili

Mr. Gharibashvili is the Prime Minister of Georgia (since November 2013). Prior to the appointment to this position, he served as the Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia (2012-2013). He was one of the founding members of political Party "Georgian Dream-Democratic Georgia" and held the position of the Head of the Party's Audit Commission. Before taking up key government positions, Mr. Gharibashvili has had vast experience in business sector. He was Director of Ltd "Georgian Dream" (2009-2012) and member of supervisory Board of "Kartu Bank" (2007-2012) and was at the same time in charge of International Charity Fund "Kartu" (2005-2012). Mr. Gharibashvili was a personal representative of Honorary Consul of the Republic of San-Marino to Georgia (2006). He graduated from Tbilisi State University from where he earned his B.A. and M.A in International Law and International Relations (2005). He has a degree in Political Sciences from Sorbonne University, France (2002-2004).



Diba Nigar Göksel

Ms. Göksel is the editor-in-chief of the Turkish Policy Quarterly (since 2003). She began her professional career in 1998 in Washington DC, first working at the Embassy of Azerbaijan and subsequently at TÜSIAD-US (Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association, Washington Office). After returning to Istanbul in 2001, she was Country Director at IREX (International Research and Exchanges Board), project manager at TESEV (Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation) and the Secretary-General for International Relations at the ARI Movement, an NGO promoting a strong civil society in Turkey. Nigar Göksel regularly writes on Turkey and the Caucasus for various publications and platforms, focusing largely on women's issues, civil society development and relations with the EU. Ms. Göksel studied international relations at Koç University in Istanbul.



J. D. Gordon

Mr. Gordon is the former Defence Department spokesman for the Western Hemisphere in the Office of the Secretary of Defence (2005-2009).

Mr. Gordon is contributing columnist to Fox News and The Washington Times since 2010 and has regularly appeared as a national security and foreign policy commentator on a wide variety of international, national and local television and radio outlets. A career Navy public affairs officer with 20 years of active duty service, Mr. Gordon has been the on-scene spokesman for numerous internationally newsworthy events. Mr. Gordon graduated from Pennsylvania State University where he received a B.A. in Communications. Mr. Gordon also holds a M.A. in Diplomacy from Norwich University and is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force's Air Command and Staff College.



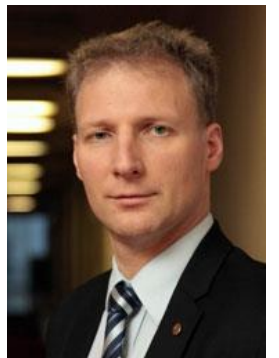
Bob Hamilton

Colonel Bob Hamilton is the Deputy Chief, Security Assistance Office, Office of Defence Representative Pakistan (since August, 2013). He was commissioned as an Armor officer after graduation from the United States Military Academy (USMA) in 1988. In 1996, he was designated as a Eurasian Foreign Area Officer (FAO). Colonel Hamilton received his Bachelor's Degree from USMA, his Master's Degree from the University of Virginia (UVa), and is currently writing his PhD dissertation in Political Science, also at UVa. He was an exchange student at the German Armed Forces Staff College and a War College Fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington D.C. Colonel Hamilton's military assignments include platoon leader in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, theater war planner for Operation Iraq Freedom, desk officer for Uzbekistan at U.S Central Command, and Chief of the Office of Defence Cooperation in Tbilisi, Georgia.



Kestutis Jankauskas

Mr. Jankauskas is a permanent representative of Lithuania to NATO. Mr. Jankauskas has long been in diplomatic service of Lithuania. During past two decades, he held various responsible positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania. He was Chancellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania and Ambassador to the Political and Security Committee of the EU, Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union (2005 – 2009). He was in charge of the Security Policy Department (2003-2005) and Minister-Counsellor, DCM at the Lithuanian Embassy to the United States of America (1999-2003). Mr. Jankauskas was responsible for the Security Policy Division, MFA (1997-1999) and held the post of Deputy Head of the Multilateral Relations Division (1996-1997) and that of the First secretary at the Lithuanian Embassy in Sweden (1996). Mr. Jankauskas graduated from the Faculty of History, Vilnius University.



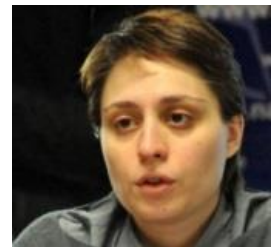
Major-General Vakhtang Kapanadze

Major-General Kapanadze is Chief of General Staff of Georgian Armed Forces (since 2013). He was Deputy Chief of Foreign Intelligence, Special Service of Georgia (2008-2012) and First deputy of the chief of Joint Staff (2012-2013). Prior to that, Mr. Kapanadze was Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to Poland (2007-2008) and Special Envoy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2007). His previous professional background also includes the following positions: Chief of General Staff of Georgia (2004-2005), military advisor to the President of Georgia (2005-2006), Chief of J2 Department of General Staff of Georgia (2001-2002) and Chief of combat Reconnaissance/Intelligence Division (1995-1999). He held the post of Deputy Defence Minister of Georgia (1990-1991). Mr. Kapanadze graduated from Tbilisi State University (1983), College of Strategic Studies and Defence Economics at the George C. Marshall Center, Germany (1997), Ukraine Armed Forces National Academy (with Gold Medal) (1999) and U.S Army War College (2003).



Elene Khoshtaria

Ms. Khoshtaria lectures at the Free University and Agricultural University of Georgia and is involved in the Administration of the Free University of Georgia. She is a Co-Founder of Georgia's Reforms Associates (GRASS). Ms. Khoshtaria has impressive background in public service. At various times she held responsible positions in the government of Georgia. She served as a deputy State Minister at the Office of the State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration. Mrs. Khoshtaria also worked at the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia. She earned her degree with Honor in International Security from Moscow State Institute of International Relations.



Bogdan Klich

Senator Klich is a member of the Fourth Term Sejm and a member of the Sixth Term European Parliament. He was the Minister of National Defence (2007-2011) and the Deputy Minister of National Defence (1999-2000). In the Fourth Term Sejm, he was a deputy chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. In the European Parliament, Senator Klich chaired the Committee on Belarus and was a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Security and Defence Committee. He was an adviser to the government for Poland's accession negotiations with the European Union (1998-1999). From the early years of his student days, Mr. Klich was an opposition activist and cooperated with the Student Committee of Solidarity. He was one of the founders of the Independent Students Association. Mr. Klich graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the Cracow Medical Academy in 1986. In 1995, he earned his doctoral degree in Philosophy and History from the Jagiellonian University.



Lauri Lepik

Ambassador Lauri Lepik is Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia to the North Atlantic Council since 2012. Mr. Lepik has vast experience in public service and diplomacy. Before assigning to his current position, Mr. Lepik represented Estonia to Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova in the capacity of ambassador (2011-2012). From 2008 to 2011, he was Deputy Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council and serving as Senior Counsellor, Defence Section, Estonian Delegation to NATO (2005-2008). In 2004-2005, Mr. Lepik was Head of European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) Bureau at the Estonian Ministry of Defence. At various times he worked at the Estonian Embassy to USA first as a Deputy Chief of Mission (1996-1999) and later as a Defence Counsellor (1999-2000). Mr. Lepik holds his M.A. in Political Science from Humboldt University (Germany) and B.A. in Library and Information Science from Tallinn Pedagogical University.



Giorgi Margvelashvili

Giorgi Margvelashvili is the President of Georgia (since November 2013). Prior to his election to presidency, Mr. Margvelashvili held the positions of the Minister of Education and Science of Georgia (2012-2013) and First Deputy Prime Minister (February 2013). Mr. Margvelashvili's background is in public policy and academia. For more than a decade, he held senior positions in the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) first as Provost (2000-2006) and later as head of GIPA's Research Department (2010-2012). He delivered classes in philosophy and served as a local government expert in the Tbilisi Office of the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Mr. Margvelashvili graduated from Tbilisi State University with a degree in philosophy. He continued his studies at the Central European University in Prague (1993-1994) and the Institute of Philosophy of the Georgian Academy of Sciences (1993-1996). Mr. Margvelashvili received a Ph.D. in philosophy from Tbilisi State University.



Grigol Mgaloblishvili

Ambassador Mgaloblishvili is Faculty Chair at the College of International Security Affairs (for the 2014-2015 academic years). He was Head of the Mission of Georgia to NATO (2009-2013). Prior to his assignment to NATO, he held key positions in the Government of Georgia and has a solid diplomatic background. Mr. Mgaloblishvili was the Prime Minister of Georgia (2008-2009) and Ambassador of Georgia to the Republic of Turkey, Republic of Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina (2006-2008). He was a director of European Affairs and European Integration Department, MFA. Ambassador Mgaloblishvili holds a BA and a MA in oriental studies from Tbilisi State University. Mr. Mgaloblishvili attended Postgraduate Course in Diplomatic Studies in Oxford University and Black Sea Security Programme, in Kennedy School of Government, Harvard.



Sven Mikser

Mr. Mikser is the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Estonia since March 26, 2014. He has been the leader of the Social Democratic Party since 2010 and a member of the Social Democratic Party since 2005. Mr. Mikser performed the duties of the chairman of the Social Democratic Party's fraction and served as a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee (2011-2014). He held senior positions including the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu (2007-2011) and the chairman of the National Defence Committee of the Riigikogu (2003-2005). Mr. Mikser was part of the Estonian delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and served as the Vice President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He graduated from Tartu University and obtained his degree in English Literature.



Lincoln Mitchell

Lincoln Mitchell is an Associate at the Harriman Institute and an Affiliate at the Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies at Columbia University. Mr. Mitchell conducts productive research and scientific work. He is currently working on a book about the Color Revolutions in the former Soviet Union. His current research includes work on democratic transitions in the former Soviet Union and the role of democracy promotion in American foreign policy. Prior to joining the Harriman Institute, Mr. Mitchell was Arnold A. Saltzman Assistant Professor in the Practice of International Politics at Columbia University. In addition to serving as Chief of Party for the National Democratic Institute in Georgia from 2002-2004, he worked on political development issues in the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. For years, Mr. Mitchell worked as a political consultant in New York City advising and managing domestic political campaigns. He holds a Ph.D in Political Science from Columbia University.



Andrew Murrison

Andrew Murrison is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and the Minister for International Security Strategy of the British government (since 2012) and a Member of Parliament. He was appointed to the Conservative front bench as a health spokesman (2003). Mr. Murrison became Parliamentary Private Secretary to Secretary of State for Health where he reviewed and made recommendations on health care (2010). Mr. Murrison is Prime Minister's special representative for the centenary commemoration of the First World War. His career outside politics includes a medical officer in the Royal Navy where he served for 18 years leaving the service in 2000 as a surgeon commander. He was recalled to serve in Iraq in 2003. Mr. Murrison studied medicine at Bristol and public health at Hughes Hall, Cambridge.



Valeriu Nicut

Dr. Valeriu Nicut is currently working as a State Secretary for Defence Policy and Planning in Romanian Ministry of National Defence. He previously served as an advisor to the minister of National Defence. A retired General, Valeriu Nicut held various positions in Army Units, General Staff, International Military Staff/NATO HQ and SHAPE/Belgium. Mr. Nicut holds a PhD in military science. He also graduated from Military High School, Army Academy, Joint Services Command and Staff College, Joint and Multinational Operations Course and National Defence College.



Richard Norland

Mr. Norland took up his current duties as an Ambassador of the United States to Georgia in 2012. Before becoming Ambassador to Georgia, Ambassador Norland was International Affairs Advisor/Deputy Commandant at the National War College. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Uzbekistan (2007-2010). He served for two years as Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. He was also Deputy Chief of Mission in Riga, Latvia, and served in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan as a diplomat with the U.S. Army Civil Affairs team promoting political and economic reconstruction. He has Masters' Degrees from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies and the National War College. Ambassador Norland is a recipient of the 2010 Presidential Distinguished Service Award and a Department of State Superior Honor Award for his work in Georgia in 1993.



Maciej Popowski

Maciej Popowski is Deputy Secretary General for Inter-Institutional Affairs of the European External Action Service (since 2010). He previously served as Head of Cabinet of President of the European Parliament (2009-2010) and as the Director in the Directorate General Development of the European Commission (2008-2009). Mr. Popowski has had a distinguished career in the Polish Diplomatic Service. He played a central role in Polish EU accession negotiations, serving as deputy head of Poland's representation to the EU, and after 2004, serving as the first Permanent Representative of Poland to the EU's Political and Security Committee. Mr. Popowski holds a M.A. in German and Dutch languages and literature from the University of Wrocław.



Vasil Sikharulidze

Chairman of the Atlantic Council of Georgia, Ambassador Sikharulidze has been in Public Service for almost 20 years and held high ranking positions including those of the Minister of Defence of Georgia (2008-2009); Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the United States, Canada and Mexico (2005-2008); Special Advisor to the President of Georgia on Foreign Policy, Deputy Minister of Defence, Undersecretary of the National Security Council of Georgia, Deputy Head of Georgian Mission to NATO and Head of NATO Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. He graduated from Tbilisi State Medical University.



James Sherr

James Sherr is an associate fellow and former head (2009 – 2011) of the Russia and Eurasia programme. He was a member of the Social Studies Faculty of Oxford University from 1993 to 2012 a fellow of the Conflict Studies Research Centre of the UK Ministry of Defence (1995 – 2008) and director of studies of the Royal United Services Institute (1983-85). He has published extensively on Soviet and Russian military, security and foreign policy, as well as energy security, the Black Sea region and Ukraine's effort to deal with Russia. His vast expertise include Foreign and security policy of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, NATO/EU Enlargement & the Black Sea Region, Security sector reform in post-Communist states, the energy relationship between Russia, Ukraine and the EU. He was a fellow at UK Defence Academy (1995-2008) and lecturer in International Relations, Lincoln College Oxford (1986-2008).



Frederick Starr

Frederick Starr is the founding chairman of the Central Asia - Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program, research professor at joint transatlantic research and policy center affiliated with Johns Hopkins University and the Institute for Security and Development Policy in Stockholm. Mr. Starr is a frequent commentator on the affairs of Central Asia and Caucasus and the author of numerous articles in various leading American and international journals and newspapers. Mr. Starr was the founding Chairman of the Kennan Institute in Washington and served as Vice President of Tulane University and President of the Aspen Institute and of Oberlin College (1983-94). He was closely involved in planning the University of Central Asia and the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy and is a trustee of the Nazarbayev University in Kazakhstan.



Stelian Stoian

Mr. Stoian is the Permanent Representative of Romania to NATO. Mr. Stoian has vast experience in facilitating Romania's accession to NATO as he was a member of the team promoting Romania's candidature for joining NATO (2001-2004). During his career, Mr. Stoian has held many responsible positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs including Director General for the UN and Global Affairs (2004-2006); Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (2004); Director, Division for Nonproliferation and Arms Control (2001) and Deputy Head of Mission, the Embassy of Romania to the United States of America. He was assigned to the Permanent Mission of Romania to UN in the position of Second Secretary (1996-2000). Mr. Stoian graduated from the University of Bucharest (faculty of History) and postgraduate Course in International Relations, University of Bucharest.



Daniel Twining

Daniel Twining is senior fellow for Asia at GMF (German Marshall Fund). He previously served as a member of the U.S. Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff, where he was responsible for South Asia and regional issues in East Asia; He has taught at Georgetown University and writes regularly on Asia and U.S. foreign policy. He is completing a book on U.S. grand strategy in Asia and holds a doctorate in international relations from Oxford University, where he was the Fulbright/Oxford Scholar from 2004-07.



Davit Usupashvili

Mr. Usupashvili is chairman of the Parliament of Georgia (since October 2012). Mr. Usupashvili has long been engaged in public affairs and been member of various boards of the leading Georgian NGOs. He worked for USAID funded Rule of Law program (1999-2005). Mr. Usupashvili worked as an Executive Secretary for Anti-Corruption Working Group under President of Georgia (2000-2001). He was a founder of one of the first Georgian NGOs, Georgian Young Lawyers Association. Mr. Usupashvili worked for the President of Georgia as Senior Legal Adviser (1992-1994). He served at the Central Election Commission of Georgia on various positions (1989-1995). Since 2004, he is a Senior International Constitutional Law Consultant of the UNDP and EU. Mr. Usupashvili earned his law degree from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, and obtained M.A. in International Development Policy from Duke University.



Raimonds Vejonis

Mr. Vejonis is the Minister of Defence of Latvia (since January 2014). Before holding his current position, Mr. Vejonis was the minister of Environment of the Republic of Latvia (2002-2011). His other positions covered various activities at different state agencies. Mr. Vejonis was a member of the strategic development Commission (2012-2014); Chairman of the Public Administration and Local Government Committee's Subcommittee on Drafting and Implementation of the National Development Plan (2011-2014); Chairman of the Baltic Affairs Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee; member of the National Security Committee (2011-2014). At the same time, he was a member of the Public Administration and Local Government Committee. Mr. Vejonis also served as a member of the 11th Saeima (2011-2014). Mr. Vejonis graduated from the University of Latvia, Faculty of Biology.



Marijus Velicka

Mr. Velicka is the Deputy Minister of National of Defence of Lithuania (since 2013). Mr. Velicka as a professional lawyer has substantial legal background from various law firms (2003-2010). In 2010, he founded his own attorney's office. Since 2010, he is the member of the Labour Party. Mr. Velicka graduated from Law University of Lithuania from earning his B.A. and M.A. degrees. In 2013, he attended the General and Flag Officers and Ambassadors Course, NATO Defence College (Rome).



Damon Wilson

Damon Wilson is executive vice president of the Atlantic Council, serving as both a thought leader and manager with responsibility for strategy and strategic initiatives, institutional development and organizational effectiveness. From 2007 to 2009, Mr. Wilson served as special assistant to the president and senior director for European affairs at the National Security Council. He managed interagency policy on NATO, the European Union, Georgia, Ukraine, the Balkans and Eurasian energy security. From 2001 to 2004, Mr. Wilson served as deputy director of the Private Office of the NATO Secretary General, assisting Lord George Robertson in his drive to transform the Alliance by enlarging NATO membership, conducting operations beyond Europe particularly in Afghanistan, and adapting Allied capabilities to face modern threats. Mr. Wilson completed his master's degree at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs.



Lieutenant General Wolfgang Wosolsobe

Lieutenant General Wolfgang Wosolsobe assumed his current responsibilities in the capacity of Director General of the EU Military Staff in May 2013. Mr. Wolfgang has a distinguished military career, which he started in 1974. His long background in diplomacy and military career ranges from Military Advisor for Disarmament at the Austrian Diplomatic Mission in Geneva (1991) to Defence Attaché to France (1992-1997). At various times Mr. Wosolsobe was a Defence Policy Director (2006), military representative in Brussels (2007) and a Dean of the EU Military Committee (2009-2010). He attended the General Staff Officers Course of the Austrian Armed Forces (1982-1985) and joined the French “École Supérieure de Guerre Interarmées” and the “Cours Supérieur Interarmées” (1987-1988).



CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Mr	Abashidze	Zurab	Georgian Prime Minister’s Special Representative in Relations with Russia
Mr	Abashishvili	Giorgi	Adviser of the President of Georgia
Ms	Abzalava	Maya	Senior Program Coordinator, Export Control and Related Border Security, US Embassy, Tbilisi, Georgia
Mr	Adam	Philippe	Deputy Defense Policy Director, Ministry of Defence of the French Republic
Mr	Adams	Eric	Analyst, US Department of Defence
COL	Adolfsson	Peter	Defence Attaché of the Kingdom of Sweden to Georgia (residence in the Republic of Turkey)
Mr	Afyan	Vahagn	Chargé d'affaires, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Armenia to Georgia
Ms	Aghniashvili	Tinatin	International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration Department, Ministry of Defence of Georgia
Mr	Agladze	Zurab	Rector, Davit Aghmashenebeli National Defence Academy of Georgia
COL	Akbarov	Ilham	Defence Attaché of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Georgia
Mr	Akhalkatsi	Giorgi	Director, Department of Public Relations and International Organizations, National Security Council of Georgia
Ms	Akubardia	Teona	Deputy Secretary of National Security Council of Georgia
Mr	Aladashvili	Beka	Head of Defence Policy and Planning Department, Ministry of Defence of Georgia
Mr	Aladashvili	Irakli	Director, Journal “Arsenal”, Georgia
Mr	Alapishvili	Levan	Legal Expert, Atlantic Council of Georgia
Mr	Alasania	Irakli	Minister of Defence of Georgia
AMB	Aljaf	Bakir Ahmad Aziz	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Iraq to Georgia
LTG	Apriamov	Enrico	First Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Republic of Armenia
Mr	Arikan	Engin	Consul General, Turkish General Consulate in Batumi
Ms	Asistisvili	Ketevan	Head of Reform Coordination Division, Ministry of Defence of Georgia
Mr	Avaliani	Varlam	Deputy Minister of Defence of Georgia
Mr	Avalishvili	Levan	Institute for Development of Freedom of Information, Georgia
LTC	Babunashvili	Giorgi	Georgian Defence Attaché to Italy, Spain, Portugal and San-Marino
Ms	Bachiashvili	Nato	International Centre for Geopolitical Studies, Georgia
Mr	Badashvili	Girogi	Chief Prosecutor of Georgia
COL	Baitleuov	Yermek	Defence Attaché of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Georgia
Mr	Baramidze	Giorgi	Deputy Chairman of the Parliament

Ms	Baratashvili	Nino	Head of Department of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
Mr	Barnabishvili	Leri	Head of Investigation Department, Ministry of Finance of Georgia
Mr	Batiashvili	Aleksi	Deputy Minister of Defence of Georgia
COL	Begoidze	Omar	Head of Department of Strategic Planning, Military Policy and Civil-Military Cooperation Department, General Staff of the Georgian Armed Forces
Mr	Beshidze	Rezo	Director of Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
BG	Beukering	Antoine John Andre	Assistant Chief of Staff for International Military Cooperation, Royal Netherlands Army
MAJ	Bilbo	Joseph C.	Defense and Army Attaché, US Army, US Embassy, Yerevan, Armenia
Ms	Boguslawska	Helena	Deputy Head of CSDP Policy, Partnerships and Agreements Division, Crisis Management and Planning Directorate, EEAS, EU
Mr	Boland	Frank	Head of Planning Directorate, NATO HQ/IS
AMB	Bonchev	Plamen	Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to Georgia
LTG (R)	Bornemann	Jürgen	Former Director General NATO IMS, Germany
LTC	Brady	Richard	US Marine Attaché to Georgia
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