

30 Years of Friendship: Virtual Roundtable Discussion on the US-Georgian Strategic Partnership

05 May 2022 | 18:00 (UTC+4)

Zoom platform

Working language: **English**

Program:

18:00 - 18:05

Opening Remarks:

Prof. Kornely Kakachia, Director, the Georgian Institute of Politics

Moderator: Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli, Sr. Fellow for Eurasia at American Foreign Policy Council's Central Asia-Caucasus

18:05 - 18:20

Speakers:

Ambassador (ret.) Kenneth Yalowitz, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus from 1994-1997 and to Georgia from 1998-2001

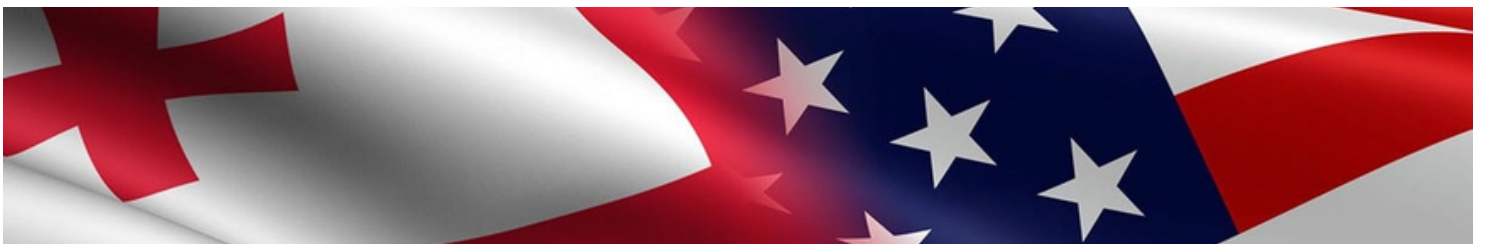
Ambassador (ret.) Matthew Bryza, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and Director on the National Security Council Staff at the White House for U.S. relations with Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus

Prof. S. Neil MacFarlane, Department of Politics & International Relations, the University of Oxford

Dr. Lincoln Mitchell, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University

18:20 - 19:00

Q&A



About the Event:

This year marks 30 years since the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between the United States of America and Georgia. For the last three decades, the two countries have cemented strategic partnership and close links. For years, this relationship was marked by important milestones such as Georgia Train and Equip Program, Georgia Sustainment and Stability Operations Program, US Georgia Charter on Partnership, and many more. The United States, regardless of the administration in the White House, has been a fierce supporter of Georgia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and Tbilisi's key ally in the international arena.

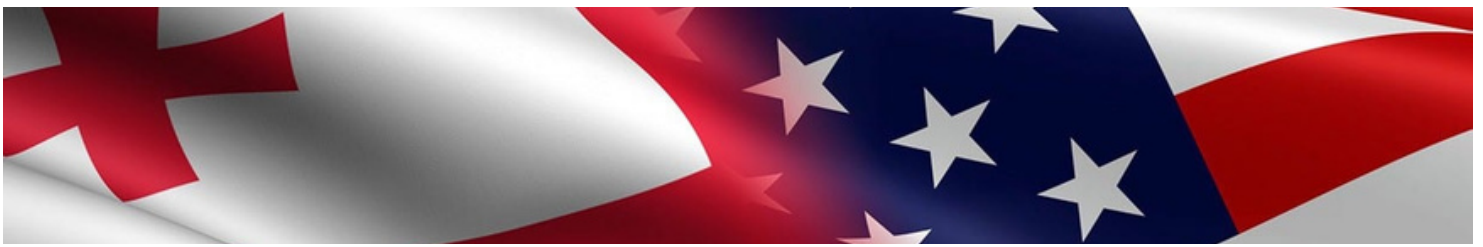
Strong bonds between the two is also reflected in the public perception, as for many years in a row, Georgians see the USA as the main friend of the country. However, there is a growing impression that this partnership is developing by inertia and a new impetus or a new vision that will further strengthen this relationship, is needed.

The roundtable brings together distinguished speakers to overview thirty years of partnership between the United States and Georgia and offer their insights on where this relationship is heading.

The online discussion will be focused on the following questions:

- ***What have been the main milestones and achievements in US-Georgian relations for the last three decades?***
- ***What are the new opportunities and challenges that the ongoing geopolitical shifts in the region pose to this partnership?***
- ***What could be new initiatives and programs, that would boost even further the relationship between the two countries?***





Moderator:



Dr. Mamuka Tsereteli is a Senior Adjunct Professorial Lecturer at School of International Service at American University. He is a Senior Fellow at Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, part of American Foreign Policy Council. He served as a Director, Center for Black Sea-Caspian Studies at AU between 2009-2013, and as an Assistant Professor at School of International Service in 2007-2011. Dr. Tsereteli also served as a member of the part time faculty at Johns Hopkins SAIS and Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University. His areas of interests include international relations and international economic policy, economic and energy security, political and economic risk analysis and mitigation strategies, and business development. Dr. Tsereteli previously served as Founding Executive Director at the America-Georgia Business Council (and currently continues to serve as a president of the organization), and Economic Counselor at the Embassy of Georgia in Washington, covering relationships with International Financial Institutions, US assistance programs and business initiatives. He is an author of many academic and policy-focused publications.

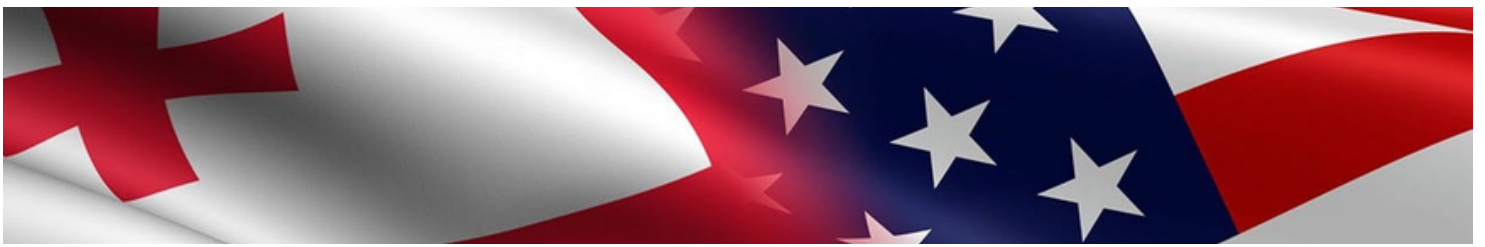
About the Speakers:



Ambassador (ret.) Kenneth Yalowitz served as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer for 36 years and was twice an ambassador: to Belarus from 1994-1997; and Georgia from 1998-2001. He also served in Moscow (two tours), The Hague and the US Mission to NATO in Brussels. He was chosen for the Ambassador Robert Frasure award for peacemaking and conflict prevention in 2000 for his work preventing spillover of the Chechen war into Georgia.

Ambassador Yalowitz directed the Dickey Center for International Understanding at Dartmouth College from 2003-11. He has been adjunct professor at Georgetown University, Stanford University in Washington and Washington & Lee University, and diplomat-in-residence at American and George Mason Universities. In 2009, he was elected to the American Academy of Diplomacy whose members have held positions of high responsibility in crafting and implementing American foreign policy. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.





Ambassador (ret.) Matthew Bryza was a nonresident senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center and the Atlantic Council in Turkey.

He was the director of the International Center for Defence studies in Tallinn, Estonia. He resides in Istanbul, where he also works as a business consultant and board member of several private companies.

Ambassador Bryza completed a twenty-three-year career as a US diplomat. His final assignment was as US ambassador to Azerbaijan from February 2011 to January 2012. From 2005 to 2009, Ambassador Bryza served as deputy assistant secretary of state for Europe and Eurasia, with responsibility for the South Caucasus, Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, and Eurasian energy. Ambassador Bryza simultaneously served as the US co-chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group, mediating the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, and as US mediator of the Cyprus, South Ossetia, and Abkhazia conflicts.

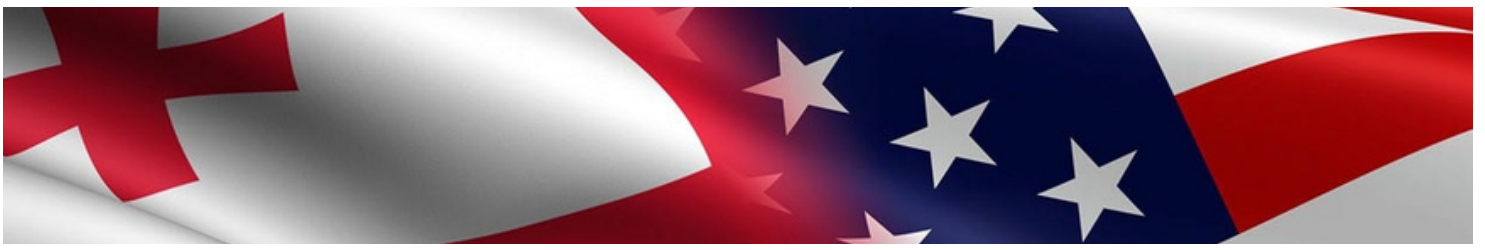
During 2001 to 2005, Ambassador Bryza served in the White House as director for European and European Affairs on the National Security Council staff. His responsibilities included the South Caucasus, Central Asia, Eurasian energy, and political Islam in Eurasia.



Prof. MacFarlane is a specialist on Russian foreign policy and the regional dynamics of the former Soviet Union, with particular reference to that regions southern tier. He is also interested in the impact of international organisations in the management and resolution of civil conflicts and also in the political and economic transitions of former communist states.

After a career in the United States and in Canada, he moved to Oxford in 1996 as the first Lester B. Pearson Professor of International Relations. From 2005 to 2010 he was Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations. From 2008 to 2010 he was Deputy Head of the Social Sciences Division at Oxford. He is currently a member of the Council of the University and serves on numerous University committees.





Dr. Lincoln Mitchell is a policy analyst, pundit and writer based in New York City and San Francisco. Lincoln writes and democracy, baseball, the former Soviet Union and the politics and history of San Francisco. He also works on democracy and governance related issues in the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Africa and Asia and with businesses and NGOs globally. He is a frequent contributor to CNN Opinion, NBC News and the San Francisco Examiner and was the national political correspondent for The New York Observer from 2014-2016. Lincoln was on the faculty of Columbia University's School of International Affairs from 2006-2013. He retains an affiliation with Columbia's Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies and teaches in Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs and political science department. In addition, he worked for years as a political consultant advising and managing domestic political campaigns.



Prof. Kornely Kakachia is Director of Tbilisi based think tank Georgian Institute of Politics and Professor of Political Science at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia. His current research focuses on Georgian domestic and foreign policy, security issues of the wider Black Sea area and comparative party politics. He was a recipient of IREX and OSI fellowships and was a visiting fellow at Harvard University's Black Sea Security program, (2009–2010) Harriman Institute, Columbia University (2011), and The Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. Prof. Kakachia is co-editor of the book titled "Georgia's Foreign Policy in the 21st Century: Challenges for a Small State" (London, New York: I.B. Tauris, 2021). In his capacity as an expert on Georgian Domestic and Foreign policy, Kakachia has appeared on the BBC, Deutsche Welle, Financial Times, Le Monde, Figaro, VOA, and on Georgian radio television stations to comment on Georgia's foreign policy, regional security and other issues.