GFTN TBILISI FINANCE SUMMIT

27-28 OCT 2026

Summit Guide

Co-organised by

GFTN

საქართველოს ეროვნული ბანკი
National Bank of Georgia

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

Building regional Economic corridors

At the intersection of policy, finance and tech

At the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Georgia is fast emerging as a strategic hub for the next phase of financial transformation, and trade through the Middle Corridor is at its highest in decades. The payment rails, regulatory frameworks and digital infrastructure needed to sustain that growth are still being built. The institutions that shape those frameworks now will define the rules for the decade ahead.

The GFTN Finance Summit Tbilisi is built on a co-organising partnership between the National Bank of Georgia and GFTN – both directly shaping the agenda, its format and what it is designed to deliver.

WEEK AT-A-GLANCE

Tuesday
27 October

Wednesday
28 October

Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Economic Corridors

AI in Tokenization & Financial Services

Assets & Identity On-Chain

Hackathon Awards

Deepdive Sessions and Networking

Insights2040 (Public sector-led Roundtables)

Workshops & Innovation Showcases

Industry Dinner (By Invite Only)

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage	
Tuesday, 27 October 9:00am - 10:30am Summit Stage Foyer, Level 1	**Registration**
Tuesday, 27 October 10:00am - 10:50am Summit Stage Foyer, Level 1	**Welcome Coffee**
Tuesday, 27 October 10:50am - 11:00am Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Summit Opening** **Speaker:** **Ravi Patel,** Host, Independent
Tuesday, 27 October 11:00am - 11:05am Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Opening Address: Sopnendu Mohanty, GFTN Group CEO** **Speaker:** **Sopnendu Mohanty,** Group Chief Executive Officer, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)
Tuesday, 27 October 11:05am - 11:10am Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Opening Address: H.E. Irakli Kobakhidze, Prime Minister of Georgia** **Speaker:** **H.E. Irakli Kobakhidze,** Prime Minister, Georgia, Government of Georgia
Tuesday, 27 October 11:10am - 11:15am Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Opening Address: H.E. Mariam Kvrivishvili, Vice Prime Minister & Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia** **Speaker:** **H.E. Mariam Kvrivishvili,** Vice Prime Minister & Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Tuesday, 27 October 11:15am - 11:20am Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Opening Address: Hon. Natia Turnava, Governor of the National Bank of Georgia** **Speaker:** **Hon. Natia Turnava,** Governor, National Bank of Georgia
Tuesday, 27 October 11:20am - 12:30pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**The Policy Dialogue: The Choices Defining 2027** As 2026 draws to a close, central banks across the Middle Corridor and beyond are setting their agendas for the year ahead. Central bank leaders share what's shaping their priorities for 2027 - from monetary policy and financial stability to the region's fast-evolving digital and cross-border infrastructure - and where they see the biggest opportunities and risks on the horizon. **Speakers:** **Hon. Natia Turnava,** Governor, National Bank of Georgia **Binur Zhalenov,** Deputy Governor, National Bank of Kazakhstan **Hovhannes Khachatryan,** Deputy Governor, Central Bank of Armenia **Dr. Emir Kurtić,** Vice Governor, Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina **Mu Changchun,** Director - General, Digital Currency Institute, People's Bank of China **Moderator:** **Sopnendu Mohanty,** Group Chief Executive Officer, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)
Tuesday, 27 October 12:30pm - 12:45pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**The Banking Dialogue: Banking Payments under the Backdrop of Fintech** **Speaker:** **Yang Jun,** Executive Vice President, Bank of China

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Tuesday, 27 October
12:45pm – 1:30pm

Summit Stage
Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1

The Banking Dialogue: Banking on Georgia – Leadership, Strategy, and the Road to 2027

Georgia's leading banking institutions are navigating digital transformation, new competitive pressures and an expanding opportunity set across Central Asia and beyond. The CEOs of Bank of Georgia, TBC Bank and Silk Bank join the National Bank of Georgia's First Vice President in a frank conversation about strategy, scale and what Georgian banking looks like heading into 2027 — from profitability and regional expansion to AI adoption and the evolving relationship between banks and regulators.

Moderated by Maha El Dimachki, CEO of GFTN Solutions, this dialogue brings together the leaders shaping Georgia's banking future and asks: what does it take to keep a bank commercially strong, regionally connected, and ready for the next decade?

Speakers:
Aleksi Khoroshvili, Chief Executive Officer, Silk Bank
Archil Gachechiladze, Chief Executive Officer, Bank of Georgia
Ekaterine Mikabadze, First Vice-Governor, National Bank of Georgia
George Tkhelidze, Chief Executive Officer, TBC Bank
Vakhtang Babunashvili, Chief Financial Officer, Liberty, Basisbank Group

Moderator:
Maha El Dimachki, Chief Executive Officer, GFTN Solutions, Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)

Tuesday, 27 October
1:30pm - 2:55pm

Summit Stage
Feast, Level 1

Networking Lunch - Powered by Gaus Crypto

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Tuesday, 27 October 2:55pm – 3:00pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Host Welcome Back** **Speaker:** **Ravi Patel,** Host, Independent
Tuesday, 27 October 3:00pm – 3:20pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Fireside chat with Polygon Foundation** Blockchain infrastructure and digital assets are reshaping financial services, opening new possibilities for payments, investment and cross-border connectivity. This fireside chat explores the future of digital finance, the potential of tokenization, and the practical challenges of adoption at scale. The discussion will examine how collaboration among technology providers, financial institutions and regulators can advance innovation while maintaining trust and financial stability. It will also consider how Georgia can build on these developments to attract investment and strengthen its potential as a regional hub for financial services. **Speaker:** **Sandeep Nailwal,** Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Polygon Foundation **Moderator:** **Levan Bodzashvili,** Advisor, Ministry of Justice of Georgia

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Tuesday, 27 October 3:20pm – 3:40pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Agents, Money and the Future State of Programmable Finance** Programmable money is maturing from stablecoin to full financial infrastructure - and the real question is no longer whether it works, but who it serves and how it's governed. Industry leaders set out what it actually takes to build a faster, more inclusive, global financial system, and what that means for a region betting on cross-border connectivity. **Speaker:** **Paolo Ardoino,** Chief Executive Officer, Tether **Moderator:** **Salim Dhanani,** Chief Executive Officer, Pave Bank
Tuesday, 27 October 3:40pm – 4:00pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Inspirational Fireside Chat: In Conversation with Joshua Fink** Biotechnology is opening new possibilities to treat disease, improve quality of life, and help people live longer in good health. For investors and founders, the opportunity spans scientific breakthroughs, new approaches to drug development, and growing demand for better medicines. In this fireside conversation, Joshua Fink, explores the forces shaping the biotech industry, what it takes to build successful companies, and how Luma Group approaches the space. The discussion will connect the investment opportunity with the ultimate goal of bringing better treatments to more patients around the world. **Speaker:** **Joshua Fink,** Founder & Managing Member, Luma Group

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Tuesday, 27 October
4:00pm – 4:40pm

Summit Stage
Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1

Payments Without Borders: Advancing Financial Services across the Region

Georgia's payments infrastructure is evolving rapidly, from domestic digital rails to cross-border connectivity across the corridor. As Georgian banks scale, the National Bank of Georgia builds the regulatory foundation, and regional financial centres like AIFC deepen their ties with Tbilisi, the question shifts from whether Georgia can connect to how fast and how far.

This session brings together voices from across the payments stack: the regulator, the neobank, the regional financial centre and the global payments operator, to examine what it takes to build payment infrastructure that works across borders, and what Georgia's moment in the corridor means for the region's financial connectivity.

Speakers:
Leiming Chen, Senior Vice President & Chief Sustainability Officer, Ant International
Nino Jeladze, Vice Governor, National Bank of Georgia
Tamar Tkeshelashvili, Independent Member of the Supervisory Board, Neo Georgian Bank

Moderator:
Pat Patel, Chief Executive Officer, USA, LATAM, Middle East & Africa; Co-CEO, GFTN Connections , Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Tuesday, 27 October
4:40pm – 5:25pm

Summit Stage
Kavkasioni Ballroom,
Level 1

VASP 2.0: Gaps and Opportunities

As digital asset activity grows across the corridor, VASP licensing is becoming an important part of how jurisdictions position themselves in the market. The question is whether different regulatory approaches can converge enough to enable cross-border activity while maintaining market integrity.

This session looks at where VASP regimes are heading, what greater regulatory clarity could unlock for financial institutions, and how coordination across the corridor could reduce regulatory arbitrage and build a more trusted digital asset market.

Speakers:
Kat Cloud, Head of Government Relations, Sumsub
Mariam Malazonia, Head of Payment Service Providers and Virtual Asset Service Providers Supervision Department, National Bank of Georgia
Maxim Kon, Board Member & Chief Executive Officer, Crypto Valley Association / Consultiks
Talgat Dossanov, Country Lead, Superteam Kazakhstan I Network School Kazakhstan
Tamta Ivanishvili, Partner, Chief Executive Officer, BLC Law Office

Moderator:
Patrick Tan, General Counsel, ChainArgos

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Tuesday, 27 October
5:25pm – 5:55pm

Summit Stage
Kavkasioni Ballroom,
Level 1

Financial Connectivity along the Middle Corridor

A 30-minute public conversation on how better regulatory evidence can help authorities simplify requirements, reduce unnecessary compliance burden and assess equivalence across jurisdictions. AI can support the analysis; authorities decide which safeguards remain necessary and what changes or cooperation are appropriate. The Middle Corridor provides the regional purpose, with anonymous open-banking experience as the practical example.

Speaker:
Prof. Bob Wardrop, Founder & Chief Executive Officer of RegGenome, Cambridge University & RegGenome

Moderator:
Varlam Ebanoidze, Head of FinTech Development & Innovation Office, National Bank of Georgia

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Public-Private Roundtables

Tuesday, 27 October
3:00pm – 4:30pm

Shino & Mtirala Rooms, Level 1

Cross-Border Financial Innovation: Defining What the Region Can Test Together

Expanding across the Middle Corridor means navigating fragmented licensing regimes, duplicated compliance requirements, inconsistent data and identity standards, and uncertain access to local financial infrastructure. These barriers touch every layer of the stack, from custody and settlement to payment rails to the legal frameworks that govern both. This roundtable brings together regulators, development finance, legal practitioners, fintech founders and digital-asset firms to examine what cross-border innovation requires in practice, drawing on live examples such as the Georgia–Azerbaijan regulatory sandbox, bilateral payment linkages under exploration with Turkey and Armenia, and emerging open finance frameworks. Which cross-border use case should the region test first? What does each layer of the stack need to make it possible? And what is the smallest practical mechanism that lets firms operate across borders while each jurisdiction keeps its own legal authority and consumer protections?

Speakers:
Akhundov Sadig, Executive Director, Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Davit Kikvidze, Chairman, FinTech Association of Georgia
Dr. Vin Pheakdey, Deputy Director General, Securities and Exchange Regulator of Cambodia
Kyrylo Khomiakov, Regional Head of CIS, Central Asia and Africa, Binance
Larisa Manastirli, Director of Financial Institutions, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB)
Lucas Yang, Head of Sales & Solutions, Cobo
Nika Kiladze, Chief Executive Officer, Keepz.me
Rajesh Sabari, Chief Commercial Officer, Liminal Custody
Shota Lomtadze, Partner, Managing Director, Bybit Georgia
Tamta Ivanishvili, Partner, Chief Executive Officer, BLC Law Office
Uyasakh Jargalsaikhan, Director of the Payment Systems and Technology Department, Bank of Mongolia

Moderator:
Rezo Shmertz, Founder, BR Capital Building Axis Eight (A8 /)

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Workshop

Tuesday, 27 October
3:00pm – 3:30pm

Gombori, Level 1

Visa and the Future of AI-Powered Consumer Journeys - Powered by Visa

eCommerce has evolved from early online payments to mobile, tokenized, and now AI-driven commerce. As AI agents begin helping consumers shop and pay, the payments ecosystem faces new challenges around security, fraud detection, privacy, and accountability. Visa's Visa Intelligent Commerce aims to support this shift with tools for safer, more transparent AI-led transactions.

Speakers:
Oleksandr Yablunivskyy, Vice President, Head of Products and Solutions, Visa CISSEE
Viktoriia Rigg, Director, Digital Solutions, Ukraine, Georgia, CIS and SEE, Visa

Tuesday, 27 October
4:00pm – 5:00pm

Gombori, Level 1

Bybit Card I Crypto Payments - Powered by Bybit

Crypto is only useful if you can spend it. In this hands-on workshop, Bybit Georgia shows how the Bybit Card turns digital assets into everyday payments, at shops, online and abroad. You'll see how the card works, how funds move from your Bybit account to a payment at the till, and what it means for people and businesses in Georgia who want to use crypto for real transactions.

This isn't a slide-only session. Bring your phone: you can create your Bybit account and get started with the card with our team on site, so you leave with it set up.

Day 1

Tuesday, 27 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Side Event

Tuesday, 27 October
4:15pm – 5:45pm

Tetnuldi, Level 1

Workshop on Global Use of RMB

Against the backdrop of profound changes in the global geopolitical and economic landscape, as well as the accelerating evolution of the international monetary system, this workshop is convened under the theme: "Enhancing Global Economic and Financial Cooperation to Facilitate RMB Investment and Financing." It aims to promote further dialogue and cooperation on the global use of the RMB.

Speakers:
Hon. Natia Turnava, Governor, National Bank of Georgia
Yang Jun, Executive Vice President, Bank of China

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Wednesday, 28 October 9:00am - 9:30am Summit Stage Foyer, Level 1	**Registration**
Wednesday, 28 October 9:30am - 10:00am Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Welcome Coffee**
Wednesday, 28 October 10:00am - 10:05am Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Host Welcome** **Speaker:** **Ravi Patel,** Host, Independent
Wednesday, 28 October 10:05am - 10:45am Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Stick or Twist: Big Bets in 2027** Heading into 2027, financial institutions face a real choice: batten down the hatches, or make big bets on growth. Turbulent conditions are pushing some toward caution, and others toward expansion into new markets, new licences, new asset classes. Banking and fintech leaders debate where they're placing their bets for the year ahead - portfolio strategy, moves into DeFi, the profitability case for growing the core banking business - and make the case for why growth, not caution, is the right call in a turbulent market. **Speakers:** **Rachit Parekh,** Partner at Accel, Accel **Salim Dhanani,** Chief Executive Officer, Pave Bank **Shota Lomtadze,** Partner, Managing Director, Bybit Georgia **Stefan Klestil,** General Partner, Speedinvest **Moderator:** **Pat Patel,** Chief Executive Officer, USA, LATAM, Middle East & Africa; Co-CEO, GFTN Connections , Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Wednesday, 28 October
10:45am - 11:30am

Summit Stage
Kavkasioni Ballroom,
Level 1

Beyond Payments: The Next Stablecoin Value Chain

Stablecoins started as a way to move money faster. The bigger opportunity is what comes next - real value for consumers and businesses beyond the transaction itself. Issuers, exchanges and payments players debate how the stablecoin value chain evolves by 2027, and what it takes to turn a payment instrument into genuine financial infrastructure

Speakers:
Marco Dal Lago, Chief Expansion Officer, Tether
Pavel Khristolyubov, Chief Operating Officer, Wallet in Telegram
Sergio Mello, Global Head of Digital Asset Infrastructure, Anchorage Digital
Simon Vans-Colina, Co-founder & Chief Technology Officer, Pave Bank
Varlam Ebanoidze, Head of FinTech Development & Innovation Office, National Bank of Georgia

Moderator:
Ravi Patel, Host, Independent

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Wednesday, 28 October 11:30am - 12:20pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Building the Infrastructure of Regional Connectivity** Cross-border payments work when the networks that move the money and the regulatory frameworks that govern them align. Real-time payment rails are being linked across borders, global messaging and card networks are adapting, and regulators are designing frameworks that can keep pace with the technology. This session brings together voices from the payment networks and the regulator to examine what regional payment connectivity actually requires, where the gaps still are, and what the Middle Corridor can realistically build, and how fast. **Speakers:** **Cem Soydemir,** Head of Payments Market Development - MENA, TCIS & India, Swift **Dr. Kishan Srinivas,** Head of Business for Europe, GCC & Central Asia, NPCI **Ekaterine Galdava,** Vice Governor, National Bank of Georgia **Liu Heng,** Vice President, UnionPay International **Moderator:** **Zdeněk Tůma,** Former Governor, Czech National Bank
Wednesday, 28 October 12:20pm - 12:35pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**The Future of Financial Regulation: Enabling Innovation, Building Confidence and Connecting Markets** **Speaker:** **Evgeniya Bogdanova,** Chief Executive Officer, Astana Financial Services Authority
Wednesday, 28 October 12:35pm - 1:05pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Hackathon Awards** **Speaker:** **Hon. Natia Turnava,** Governor, National Bank of Georgia

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Wednesday, 28 October 1:05pm - 2:30pm Summit Stage Feast, Level 1	**Networking Lunch - Powered by BitOK**
Wednesday, 28 October 2:30pm - 2:35pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Host Welcome Back** **Speaker:** **Ravi Patel,** Host, Independent
Wednesday, 28 October 2:35pm - 3:10pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**From AI Pilots to Real Value** The challenge for financial institutions is no longer proving that AI can work. It is deciding where it deserves to scale. What separates an interesting pilot from a capability that changes how a financial institution operates? Visa, Silkbank and Tyme share the lessons behind moving AI from experimentation into real-world use — and where the next wave of value may come from. **Speakers:** **Ilya Volkov,** Chief Executive Officer, Youhodler, CVA Vice-President & Board Member **Oleksandr Yablunivskyy,** Vice President, Head of Products and Solutions, Visa CISSEE **Rachel Freeman,** Chief Growth Officer, GoTyme **Moderator:** **Anastasia Yugova,** Strategy & Growth Advisor, Ex-CIS Lead, TON Foundation, AskAlem

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Wednesday, 28 October
3:10pm - 3:30pm

Summit Stage
Kavkasioni Ballroom,
Level 1

The Investors' Guide to AI in 2027

AI is reshaping where investors see value — and where they don't. What separates the companies attracting capital from those riding the hype? A grounded look at how investors are assessing AI businesses in 2027, from defensibility and economics to the sectors and business models most likely to endure.

Speaker:
David Nangle, Managing Partner, VEF

Moderator:
Stefan Klestil, General Partner, Speedinvest

Wednesday, 28 October
3:30pm - 4:10pm

Summit Stage
Kavkasioni Ballroom,
Level 1

Investor Thesis in 2027: Headwinds and Tailwinds

The fintech market is entering a more selective investment cycle. Macro conditions, regulation and the path to exits are reshaping investor appetite, while AI, tokenization and new financial infrastructure are opening up new opportunities. Investors debate where the strongest risk-adjusted opportunities lie across fintech categories and geographies, and what founders need to understand about what investors are looking for now. The panel also asks where the yield actually comes from: as capital moves from venture promises to liquid, yield-bearing digital-asset strategies and stablecoin settlement rails, which returns are real, and who is paying for them.

Speakers:
Ganesh Rengaswamy, Managing Partner, Quona Capital
Rachit Parekh, Partner at Accel, Accel
Rezo Shmertz, Founder, BR Capital Building Axis Eight (A8/)
Shokhrukh Yulchiev, Managing Director, Central Asia, Silkbridge Ventures

Moderator:
Shota Lomtadze, Partner, Managing Director, Bybit Georgia

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Summit Stage

Wednesday, 28 October 4:10pm – 4:15pm Summit Stage Kavkasioni Ballroom, Level 1	**Summit Closing** **Speaker:** **Ravi Patel,** Host, Independent

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Public-Private Roundtables

Wednesday, 28 October
11:30am – 1:00pm

Public-Private Roundtables, Shino & Mtirala Rooms, Level 1

Sustainable Capital Corridors: Financing the Next Generation of Regional Growth

The Middle Corridor is strengthening physical and commercial connectivity, but sustainable capital still encounters fragmented green-finance criteria, uneven project information and differing financial requirements across markets. This senior-level roundtable examines how existing national frameworks, financial institutions and digital infrastructure can work together to make green investment easier to identify, assess and finance across borders without introducing unnecessary bureaucracy or duplicating existing systems.
Central question | How can regional cooperation and better use of existing financial and digital systems improve cross-border access to sustainable capital?

Speakers:
Alexander Dzneladze, President, Banking Association of Georgia (BAG)
Ana Osadze, Head of ESG and Sustainability Direction, Bank of Georgia
Daniel Azatyan, Chairman, Union of Banks of Armenia (UBA)
Davit Utiashvili, Co-Host, National Bank of Georgia (NBG)
Jil Ebanoidze, Global Fintech Executive & Supervisory Board Member, FinBigTech
Larisa Manastirli, Director of Financial Institutions, Black Sea Trade and Development Bank (BSTDB)
Onur Dogan, Senior Vice President, Business Development Services, Mastercard
Otabek Nasirov, Chairman, Central Asian Fintech Association (CAFA)
Shabana Khawar, Manager for Georgia, International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Tato Tsintsadze, Principal Investment Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
Vladimir Savov, Chief Market Officer, Astana Financial Services Authority (AFSA)

Moderator:
Nino Dvalishvili, Head of ESG & SF, Banking Association of Georgia

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Public-Private Roundtables

Wednesday, 28 October
2:30pm – 4:00pm

Public-Private Roundtables, Shino & Mtirala Rooms, Level 1

Open Finance & AI: Where Regional Cooperation Can Move Fastest

Hosted by NBG, this roundtable will bring together regulators, international organisations, financial institutions, fintech and regtech companies to explore how Open Finance and AI can reinforce each other and contribute to the next stage of Georgia's digital financial ecosystem.

The discussion will explore how a trusted layer can be created for the future development of Open Finance and how connectivity with AI can provide an additional intelligence layer to turn financial data into better decisions, more personalized services and new business models

Speakers:

Aleksandre Gomiashvili, Chief Executive Officer, Creditinfo Georgia

Aleksi Khoroshvili, Chief Executive Officer, Silk Bank

Giorgi Agladze, Founder, Kursi.ge

Lotte Schou Zibell, Advisor, RegGenome

Nenad Petrović, General Manager of the Payment System Department, National Bank of Serbia

Oksana Pak, Unit Head, Private Sector Financial Institutions (Central and West Asia), Asian Development Bank

Onur Dogan, Senior Vice President, Business Development Services, Mastercard

Prof. Bob Wardrop, Founder & Chief Executive Officer of RegGenome, Cambridge University & RegGenome

Sandro Rtveladze, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Retail Banking, TBC Bank

Tazo Lezhava, Co-Founder and CEO, Quissly

Moderator:

Varlam Ebanoidze, Head of FinTech Development & Innovation Office, National Bank of Georgia

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Workshop

Wednesday, 28 October
1:00pm – 1:30pm

[Invite-Only] Bridging Georgia and Singapore: Announcing the Georgia-Singapore Fintech Scholars Programme

Pave Bank, Tether and GFTN, with Tbilisi State University (TSU) and Singapore Management University (SMU), announce the Georgia-Singapore Fintech Scholars Programme, the first exchange of its kind between the two countries and a new bridge between Georgia's emerging talent and one of the world's leading financial and technology centres. Each year, three of TSU's top undergraduates in business and STEM will spend a fully funded semester at SMU, returning to Georgia with the knowledge and networks to build the next chapter of its fintech sector. The session brings the partners and both universities together to present the Programme and what it means for the growing relationship between Georgia and Singapore.

Speakers:
Dr. Navin Rajagobal, Senior Director, Singapore Management University
Jaba Samushia, Rector, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU)
Marco Dal Lago, Chief Expansion Officer, Tether
Salim Dhanani, Chief Executive Officer, Pave Bank

Wednesday, 28 October
2:30pm – 3:00pm

Gombori, Level 1

Applying Asia's Stablecoin Models to Middle Corridor Settlement - Powered by Cobo

Drawing on proven adoption patterns across Asia, this workshop demonstrates how stablecoins can accelerate trade settlement along the Middle Corridor.

Speakers:
Lucas Yang, Head of Sales & Solutions, Cobo
Scarlett Song, Account Manager, Cobo

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Side Event

Wednesday, 28 October 10:00am – 12:00pm Tetnuldi, Level 1	**Hackathon Presentation** Finalists from Georgia and neighbouring countries take the stage for the final round of a regional hackathon, integrated into the Summit programme in partnership with Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA). Presentations are followed by the award ceremony recognising the strongest ideas from the region's next generation of builders.

Day 2

Wednesday, 28 October 2026
Sheraton Grand, Tbilisi Metechi Palace

Side Event

Wednesday, 28 October
2:00pm – 5:00pm

Tetnuldi, Level 1

AIFC Connect: Tbilisi 2026

AIFC Connect: Tbilisi 2026, organised by the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC), will bring together senior representatives of Kazakhstan's and Georgia's financial sectors to explore opportunities for stronger financial connectivity, cross-border investment and market cooperation. The programme will cover the economic outlook and capital markets of both countries, the AIFC's value proposition, and the Mutual Access and Recognition Project between the AIFC and the National Bank of Georgia. The event will also provide opportunities for networking and B2B meetings among key market participants.
Click here to learn more

Speakers:
H.E. Renat Bekturov, Governor, Astana International Financial Centre
Aduov Talgat, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Georgia, Embassy of Kazakhstan
Alexander Diakovsky, Managing Director, ITS
Bakhtiyar Tleubekov, Chairman of the Management Board, Astana International Financial Centre
Birzhan Astayev, Chief Markets and Products Officer, Astana International Exchange
Dr. Irakli Gabriadze, Chief Executive Officer, JSC Georgian Economic Development Corporation
Ekaterine Mikabadze, First Vice-Governor, National Bank of Georgia
Evgeniya Bogdanova, Chief Executive Officer, Astana Financial Services Authority
Geguchadze Nikoloz, General Director, Halyk Bank Georgia
Giorgi Kuprashvili, Chief Executive Officer, Galt & Taggart
Mikheil Nibladze, Managing Director, Cerberus Capital Management
Otar Sharikadze, Director, TBC Capital
Saken Olzhabayev, Managing Director, Baiterek National Investment Holding

About the Organisers

The GFTN Finance Summit Tbilisi is built on a co-organising partnership between the National Bank of Georgia and GFTN – both directly shaping the agenda, its format and what it is designed to deliver.

Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN)

The Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN) is a Singapore headquartered organisation that leverages technology and innovation to create more efficient, resilient, and inclusive financial systems through global collaboration.

GFTN hosts a worldwide network of forums and programmes; advises governments and companies on policies and the development of digital ecosystems and innovation within the financial sector; offers digital infrastructure solutions and plans to invest in financial technology startups through its upcoming venture fund, with a focus on inclusion and sustainability.

GFTN is a not-for profit organisation established by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) in 2024.

National Bank of Georgia (NBG)

The mandate of the National Bank of Georgia (NBG) covers a broad range of responsibilities, including supervision of the financial sector and capital markets, maintenance of price stability, oversight of payment systems, management of international reserves, and issuance of the national currency.

In recent years, the NBG has become a leading force in promoting financial technologies and innovation in Georgia. Through progressive regulatory initiatives and modern payment infrastructure reforms, the NBG has positioned Georgia as an emerging regional hub for fintech and digital finance.

GFTN TBILISI

FINANCE SUMMIT