

REPORT

ON THE WORK DONE BY NLC LLC ON HOLDING THE CENTRAL ASIAN INTERNET
GOVERNANCE FORUM IN TASHKENT, REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Introduction

On 23 May 2025, the ninth Central Asian Internet Governance Forum (CAIGF) was held in Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan. The Forum strengthened the existing open platform for addressing critical issues related to Internet governance and accessibility, with the long-term goal of creating an inclusive, secure and sustainable digital environment in Central Asia.

The event was organised by the National Legal Corporation (NLC), a Kyrgyz-based law firm operating since 1998 that specialises in corporate, tax, digital, labour and intellectual-property law. CAIGF 2025 served as a venue for dialogue on digital transformation, cyber-resilience and coherent Internet-governance policies in the region.

Held under the overarching theme “Digital Future of Central Asia: Global Trends and Regional Initiatives”, the Forum addressed artificial-intelligence development, cross-border data exchange, digital-infrastructure resilience and regional regulation. Special attention was given to strengthening cooperation between government bodies, the private sector and civil society.

The Forum gathered 190 participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, together with experts from Europe, Canada and other countries, including representatives of ICANN, RIPE NCC, the Internet Society, TikTok, Yandex, academia and non-governmental organisations.

CAIGF 2025 confirmed Central Asia’s growing role in the global digital agenda and marked another step towards building an inclusive, secure and innovative digital ecosystem in the region. The Forum was held in a hybrid format and included three thematic sessions with keynote presentations and panel discussions.

Session 1. Artificial Intelligence as a Driver of Sustainable Development and Integration

Artificial intelligence (AI) is no longer a scientific curiosity; it is now embedded across all areas of life, serving as a powerful driver of sustainable development and opening new opportunities for innovation and cooperation among states. At the same time, issues such as personal-data protection, ethics, responsibility for autonomous systems, cybersecurity, infrastructure development and human-capital growth require close attention. Central Asian countries are actively engaging in global AI discussions to strike a balance between innovation and safety.

Moderator: Alexander Partin, Partner, Privacy Advocates.

Key speakers:

- Rustam Juraev, Ministry of Digital Technologies of Uzbekistan – presented core elements of the national AI roadmap, including language-dataset development and competence-centre strengthening.
- Sergey Sokolov, Director for Government Relations & Corporate Affairs, TikTok (Eastern Europe) – outlined principles of responsible AI and algorithmic transparency for global platforms.
- Raimonda Purvine, AI and e-communications expert, former adviser to the Communications Regulatory Authority of Lithuania – compared key provisions of the EU AI Act with Central Asian regulatory frameworks.

The discussion involved representatives of Yandex Uzbekistan, the Central Asian AI Association and AIDA, focusing on ethics, personal-data protection, cybersecurity and the need for a regional dataset register and specialised training.

Session 2. Data Ecosystem of Central Asia and Turkic-speaking Countries

The formation of a common digital-data space requires harmonised localisation rules, mutual recognition of cyber-security measures and compatible data-centre certification procedures. Discussions centred on personal-information protection, legal grounds for cross-border data flows and infrastructure resilience for e-commerce services.

Moderator: Nikolai Dmitrik, Research Policy & Public Administration (RPPA), Kazakhstan.

Key speakers and contributors:

- Ekaterina Smyshlyeva, Member of Parliament (Mazhilis), Kazakhstan – outlined legislative perspectives on data governance.
- Kirill Zyubanov, DPO Lead, Wildberries – presented cross-border e-commerce data practices.
- Dayana Tursunbaeva, Chief Inspector, State Agency for Personal Data Protection, Kyrgyz Republic – spoke on privacy guarantees.
- Irina Baikulova, Deputy Director, National Legal Corporation, Kyrgyz Republic.
- Farhad Belonogov, Lead Specialist, Information-Security Department, Ministry of Digital Technologies of Uzbekistan.

The session produced proposals to draft a regional Data Charter, launch a Kazakhstan–Uzbekistan Data Sandbox and create a register of trusted data centres.

Session 3. Digital Resilience and Connectivity

Participants examined cooperative pathways to enhance network resilience through jointly planned redundant routes, satellite connectivity and shared cache nodes. Given the mountainous terrain and extensive land borders of Central Asia, a combination of terrestrial fibre-optic backbones, low-Earth-orbit (LEO) satellite systems and regional cache centres was emphasised. Unified reliability metrics and machine-readable incident reporting were also discussed.

Moderator: Tattu Mambetalieva, Director, National Legal Corporation (NLC), Kyrgyz Republic.
Key speakers and contributors:

- Senura Abeywardena, Head of Public Policy for Central Asia, Mongolia, Sri Lanka & Maldives, Meta – proposed a multi-layer resilience model using LEO satellites for traffic redundancy.
- Mikhail Anisimov, Senior Manager, Stakeholder Engagement, ICANN.
- Vaan Ovsepyan, Senior Community & Government Policy Adviser, RIPE NCC.
- Dr Vygilijus Stundzia, Acting Head of Electronic Communications Regulation Group, Communications Regulatory Authority of Lithuania.
- Dmitry Vetrugin, Market-Access & Sales Director for Central Asia, OneWeb.
- Tatyana Klochkova, Head of Electric & Postal Communications Development Department, Ministry of Digital Development & Innovation, Kyrgyz Republic.

Delegates agreed on the need for unified resilience metrics, an open-data telemetry platform and a consortium for training network-security specialists.

Participants agreed on the need to deepen regional cooperation and continue work on common initiatives aimed at achieving shared goals of digital development and security. Progress will be reviewed at CAIGF 2026 in Bishkek.

Financial Statement

№	Name	Cost \$ (USD)
1.	Designer's honorarium	500
2.	Rent of equipment for translators	2 500
3.	Simultaneous translation (UZ-RU-ENG)	1 300
4.	Transfer	400
5.	Photo and video support	1 000
6.	Aviatickets for international speakers	8 000
7.	Aviatickets KG,TJ,KZ	13 500
8.	Banners and decor	3 000
9.	LED screen	2 500
10.	Badges	200
11.	Rent of halls	2 00
12.	Gala dinner	5 250
13.	Promotion in social media and information agencies	1 500
14.	Distributing material	500
15.	Coffee breaks and lunches	4 500
16.	Accommodation	13 500
17.	Microphones and garniture	1 500
Итого		61 650

Conclusion

CAIGF 2025 reaffirmed its role as the key sub-regional platform uniting state and non-state actors around a common digital agenda. Discussions spanned AI development, the creation of a shared data space and network-infrastructure resilience, with concrete measures agreed upon in each track.

Throughout the Forum, participants covered a broad range of topics, including digital-infrastructure development, security and resilience, and regulation during digital transformation. Successful national and regional initiatives were reviewed, aimed at enhancing cyber-security, improving digital access and maintaining robust digital systems. Particular emphasis was placed on leveraging digital technologies to address social challenges such as telemedicine, online education and digital financial services. Delegates recognised the importance of inclusion—ensuring that digital opportunities are available to all, including women, girls and remote communities—and underscored ongoing cooperation between governments, civil society and the private sector.

The Forum demonstrated that digital transformation is essential to Central Asia's development, with AI and other breakthrough technologies reshaping governance models and service delivery across sectors. CAIGF 2025 provided a platform for countries to strengthen collaboration and prepare joint initiatives for future digital forums in the region. Participants agreed on the need to deepen regional cooperation and continue work on common initiatives aimed at achieving shared goals of digital development and security. Progress will be reviewed at CAIGF 2026 in Bishkek.

Photo Gallery





Useful Links

<https://caigf.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15P7QpjLQw/>

<https://www.digital.gov.uz/oz/news/view/56353>

<https://the-tech.kz/v-tashkente-projdet-czentalno-aziatskij-forum-po-upravleniyu-internetom-caigf-2025/>

<https://t.me/thetechkz/8452>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/Dlib4QPojQG/?igsh=bzlvdmRhb3UzOWo2>

<https://internetpolicy.kg/?p=6827>

<https://internetpolicy.kg/2025/05/27/caigf-2025-tashkent-stal-ploshhadkoj-dlya-dialoga-po-cifrovomu-budushhemu-centralnoj-azii/>

<https://dlaw.kg/ru/2025/05/19/cifrovoe-budushhee-centralnoj-azii-caigf-2025-projdot-23-maja-v-tashkente/>

<https://dlaw.kg/ru/2025/05/27/caigf-2025-tashkent-stal-ploshhadkoj-dlya-dialoga-po-cifrovomu-budushhemu-centralnoj-azii/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/192p38yuCf/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15wQma8p2Y/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FvL4rEgwT/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AVeMqYDL8/>

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