

Kobakhidze: Middle Corridor 'An Inevitability' in Fragmented Global Economy



BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

Georgian Dream Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze positioned Georgia as a vital link between East and West on Tuesday, telling world leaders that

the "Middle Corridor" has evolved from a mere alternative to an "inevitability" for global trade.

Speaking at the 2026 World Government Summit, Kobakhidze argued that as traditional trade routes face mount-

ing instability, the world is increasingly looking for corridors that can bypass geopolitical friction.

"The Middle Corridor offers something increasingly rare in today's world: a stable, reliable

transit route that overcomes geopolitical divides," Kobakhidze said. "In a world where traditional routes are unreliable, alternative corridors are essential."

Kobakhidze emphasized that in an era of global fragmenta-

tion, Georgia's strategic position allows it to serve as a "bridge" rather than a pawn in geopolitical competition. He noted that the route, which connects East Asia to Europe through Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Turkey, provides landlocked countries with critical access to global markets.

He stressed that the current global economic climate requires "intelligent diversification" rather than isolation or choosing sides.

"In a fragmented global economy, countries that can bridge the gaps are invaluable," he noted. "The world doesn't need to choose sides—it needs reliable connecting bridges."

The speech comes as Georgia continues to invest heavily in its transit capabilities, including the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway and the Anaklia deep-sea port project. Kobakhidze argued that stability itself has become a "strategic asset" that Georgia can offer its international partners.

According to Kobakhidze, the goal is to transform the country into a multifunctional regional hub that can withstand geopolitical shocks while ensuring economic prosperity for the region.

"The question before us today is how to create a trading system that is resilient enough to withstand geopolitical shocks and open enough to ensure prosperity," Kobakhidze concluded.

Parliament Passes First Reading of New Restrictions on NGO Political Activity

BY LIZA MCHEDLIDZE

The Georgian Dream-led Parliament of Georgia has approved a controversial legislative package in its first reading that bans non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from engaging in political activism if they receive grant funding.

The package passed with 74 votes and introduces a broad new definition of "political activity." Under these rules, any organization receiving grants is prohibited from attempting to influence public opinion, participating in the legislative process, or organizing protests intended to sway government policy.

Supporters of the bill argue that the measures are essential to prevent foreign money from influencing domestic politics. During the debate, proponents

claimed the move is necessary to ensure the country's sovereignty.

"The main goal of this law is to protect the electoral and political space from the influence of money that does not belong to the citizens of Georgia," lawmakers stated during the session.

The legislation also grants the Ministry of Justice and the Anti-Corruption Bureau significant new powers. These agencies will be authorized to monitor the daily operations of NGOs and seize documentation to ensure they are not crossing the line into activism.

Opposition members and civil society leaders have slammed the bill, calling it a direct attack on democracy. They argue the definition of "activism" is so



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