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This is a very important session for a reason that I will try to explain in a few words. Some of you may know about the concept of multi-vector foreign policies. You may also know of the Indian concept of multi-non-alignment. Multi-non-alignment seems a queer concept, but it is an important one. Fundamentally, these two expressions point to the same idea. What is it? It is that many countries do not want to be forced to take sides, for instance, in the confrontation between the West and Russia and/or between the West and China, or other possible situations more or less comparable to that. Multi-alignment or multi-vector foreign policies are the children of the new approach to the old Bandung concept of non-alignment during the first Cold War.

I mentioned India with multi-non-alignment. I think that the concept of multi-vector, the expression multi-vector foreign policy, comes from Kazakhstan. I met an Uzbek authority recently, and they consider that Uzbekistan is also one of the fathers of the idea. Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan are sometimes rivals, for certain ideas in particular. Be that as it may, President Tokayev of Kazakhstan is now particularly well known for his involvement in this concept, and he has been since he was foreign minister prior to becoming president of the country.

To discuss this matter, we have three panelists today. First of all, I would like to thank very much Madam Ana Brnabić, who is now the Speaker of the Parliament of Serbia. She is the number two protocolary person of the country. Some of you certainly remember that a few years ago, in 2017, we had a session between her – she was Prime Minister of Serbia at the time – and the Prime Minister of Albania, which was an interesting discussion for obvious reasons. Madam Speaker, I want to thank you very much for being with us again to discuss this important issue. You jump from number three to number two, so you see what remains to be done. Thank you very much for being with us.

Mr. Lasha Darsalia was also with us last year, but that was online. You had a minor accident and you could not make it physically. Thank you for being with us, especially as the situation in your country, Georgia, is quite difficult these days. Mr. Roman Vassilenko is Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, so you know him well. I think he is with us for the third time. Thank you, Roman.