

Jihad Azour

Jihad Azour is the Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund where he oversees the Fund's work in the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Caucasus. Mr. Azour served as Lebanon's Finance Minister in 2005-08, during which time he coordinated the implementation of important reforms, including modernizing the country's tax and customs systems. Before and since his time as finance minister, he held a wide range of positions in the private sector, including McKinsey and Booz and Co. where he was a Vice-President and Senior Executive Advisor. Prior to joining the IMF in March 2017, he was a Managing Partner at investment firm Inventis Partners. Mr. Azour holds a PhD in International Finance and a post-graduate degree in International Economics and Finance, both from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. He also did research on emerging economies and their integration into the global economy as a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard. Mr. Azour has published several books and articles on economic and financial issues and taught extensively.

Martin Galstyan

Martin Galstyan is the Governor of the Central Bank of Armenia. Before joining the Board he held numerous executive positions at the Bank, namely; Director of research and training center in Dilijan, Head of Statistics department and the Head of reserves management. He also teaches numerous courses at the American University of Armenia. The flagship course is the "Microeconomics of Competitiveness" which is taught in affiliation with Harvard Business School. He is the first recipient of Excellence in Teaching Award at the American University of Armenia. Martin Galstyan holds postgraduate degree from John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Andréa M. Maechler

Andréa M. Maechler became Deputy General Manager of the BIS on 1 September 2023. Ms Maechler was a member of the Governing Board of the Swiss National Bank (SNB) from 2015 until 2023. At the SNB, she was responsible for the Money Market and Foreign Exchange, Asset Management, Banking Operations and Information Technology portfolios. Prior to joining the SNB, she was Deputy Division Chief in the Global Markets Analysis Division of the International Monetary Fund. She has worked at other international organisations, including the European Systemic Risk Board and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. She was Chair of the Global Foreign Exchange Committee of central banks from December 2021 to June 2023. Ms Maechler has a PhD and a Master's degree in International Economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a Diploma of Higher Studies (DES) in International Relations.

Andrew Torre

Andrew Torre oversees all of Visa's operations in more than 90 countries and cultivates relationships with Visa's clients and government authorities. He held global roles in product, strategy, and pricing, as well as general manager roles in Russia and Sub-Saharan Africa and is a member of the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa. An industry veteran, Andrew's experience outside Visa includes terms with BankServ (General Manager of the Enterprise Payments Division) and Washington Mutual (Vice President of New Product Development and Strategic Planning). He has also worked with the World Bank in Kyiv, Moscow, and CIS territories. Torre received his M.A. from Johns Hopkins University, and he holds a B.A. from the University of Vermont.

Binur Zhalenov

Binur is a CEO of National payment corporation of Kazakhstan (NPCK) which conducts interbank payments, clearing and money transfers, ensures national payment systems' functioning in Kazakhstan and is one of the leading FinTech R&D companies in Central Asia and Caucasus region. His research focus is concentrated around payment innovation and AI/ML applications for macroeconomic modelling. He is leading a Digital Tenge project in the Republic of Kazakhstan as well as number of other initiatives related to national payment systems and digital financial infrastructure (Digital ID, Open API, Suptech and Econtech projects etc.). Binur co-authored and co-led the development of strategic documents for FinTech and National Payment System development in the Republic of Kazakhstan. He holds Master of Science in Information Systems degree from New York University.