



**Tenth Annual Global Trade  
and Investment Forum**

**April 8, 2026  
New York City**

**AGENDA**

**Fostering Networks  
Accelerating Learning  
Building Partnerships  
for Global Success**

# INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT INNOVATION IN AN ERA OF GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY

Global uncertainty is exceptionally high today due to a confluence of rising trade protectionism, tariff escalations, persistent geopolitical conflicts, volatile markets and weakening international norms. Strategic competition between the United States and China, especially over technologies like artificial intelligence and semiconductors, is disrupting global supply chains and creating distinct geopolitical “blocs” that threaten international cooperation and are fragmenting the regulatory and security landscape. As these uncertainties reach record highs, business executives and policy makers are searching for new tools to build predictability, resilience and trust in cross-border trade and investment. This year’s Global Trade and Investment Forum will focus the discussion on the emerging innovative approaches to cross-border trade and investment in response to the realities of a persistent geopolitical uncertainty.

**8:30 AM**                    **Registration. Coffee and Networking**

**9:15 AM**                    **Welcome and Sponsor Acknowledgment**

**Elena Iankova**, *President and Founder, Center for International Business Acceleration Inc.*

**Andrew Karolyi**, *the Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University and Chair of CIBA’s Board*

**Jeff Janiszewski**, *Senior Vice President, Strategic Business Development/Global NY, Empire State Development Corporation*

**9:50 AM**                    **Keynote Address “The Blending of Trade with Artificial Intelligence Amidst Global Uncertainty” by Joshua Meltzer**, *Principal Global AI Policy at Amazon Web Services*

Mr. Meltzer has over 20 years of experience working at the highest level of business and government at the intersection of trade and artificial intelligence. He has consulted on digital trade and technology issues for technology companies, governments, the World Bank, the WTO, APEC, ABAC, and have testified on trade issues before the US Congress, the US International Trade Commission and the EU Parliament. He has been a regular speaker in print and media, including on CNN, CBS and MSNBC, The Economist, The New York Times, and Bloomberg.

Moderated by **Andrew Karolyi**, *the Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University*

**10:30 AM**                    **Panel 1. Building Global Trade and Investment Resilience in a Time of Uncertainty: A Multilateral View from New York**

Uncertainty, exacerbated by geopolitical tensions and policy unpredictability, has become a systemic challenge that raises costs for exporters and slows inward investment. In response, innovation is becoming a strategic tool for businesses and policymakers alike. This keynote panel will outline government and corporate challenges as a result of the weakened multilateral trading system traditionally centered on tariff reduction via the World Trade Organization. The panel will further analyze key innovations in cross-border trade and investment such as supply chain diversification; onshoring/nearshoring of global supply chains; technological/AI adoption and digitalization; market and product adaptation; collaboration with strategic partners and development of strategic alliances to pool resources and accelerate innovation.

**Georges Ugeux**, *Chairman and CEO of Galileo Global Advisors and former Group Executive Vice President, International & Research, at the New York Stock Exchange*

**Sven Oehme**, *President & CEO, European-American Business Organization Inc., New York*

**Ivo Konstantinov**, *U.S. Office Director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bulgaria*

**David Bryce**, *Trade Commissioner at the Consulate General of Canada in New York*

Moderated by **Jeff Janiszewski**, *Senior Vice President, Strategic Business Development/Global NY, Empire State Development Corporation*

**11:30 AM**                    **Panel 2. Voices from the Frontline: International Leaders on Making It In America**

The United States is the world’s biggest and most profitable market, but it also poses unique challenges for international businesses. This panel discussion, moderated by Matthew Sawyer, business leader and author of *Make It In America*, will feature senior executives from several

international organizations who will share their experiences operating in the United States. The discussion will examine current opportunities, challenges, and strategies for navigating the U.S. market, especially in today's times of global uncertainty. The session aims to provide practical insights for those involved in international business, economic development, or research related to global market expansion.

**Marcela Miguel Berland**, *President and CEO of Latin Insights LLC*

**Sylvain Dronet**, *CEO of Andros North America*

**Cherry Lin**, *Founder & CEO of Taiwan Carbon Materials Corp. & Carbonix Materials LLC*

**Yasmine Månsson**, *Founder and CEO of STHLMYC Communications*

Moderated by **Matthew Sawyer**, *Managing Director of USAccelerator and author of Make It In America: How International Companies and Entrepreneurs Can Successfully Enter and Scale in U.S. Markets (Wiley, 2023)*

12:20 PM

## Networking Lunch

1:20 PM

### Panel 3. Domestication of Global Supply Chains: Challenges and Opportunities

Bringing supply chains closer to home (domestic markets) is one of the key aspects of building resilience and adaptability in response to increased geopolitical instability. The battery storage and the semiconductor industries, with their globalized operations, are at the forefront of these challenges. This panel will explore the shift towards “domestication” of global supply chains from the perspective of these industries. What best practices have emerged to provide resilience and secure/maintain global competitiveness in response to increased geopolitical instability? Should products be redesigned to eliminate foreign parts? Will the economics work if companies shift manufacturing to the United States? How to increase domestic sourcing without raising prices to customers? Panelists will outline their practical experiences and efforts to diversify supply sources, bring production closer to markets, leverage technology and technology transfer, create relevant infrastructure, and other innovative approaches to tackle global uncertainty.

**John Taylor**, *Director, International Supply Chain Development, GO-SEMI, Empire State Development*

**Baasit Ali Shaik Sulaiman**, *Vice President of Supply Chain at C4V*

**Balki Iyer**, *Chairman and Founder of Bridge Green Upcycle*

Moderated by **Milind Sohoni**, *Professor of Operations Management and Faculty Director, Center for Supply Chain Analytics, University at Buffalo*

2:10 PM

### Panel 4. Using AI for Competitiveness: How U.S. Companies Can Take Advantage of AI to Become Worldwide Market Leaders

Artificial intelligence is no longer a futuristic tool—it is the defining factor in global competition. For U.S. companies, the question is not whether to adopt AI, but how to leverage it strategically to outpace international rivals and lead in fast-evolving markets. This panel will bring together thought leaders from industry, academia, and venture capital to explore how American firms can transform AI breakthroughs into sustainable competitive advantages.

**Chansam Kim**, *Co-Founder and COO of SAIL, an AI-native platform that helps companies manage trade compliance across global supply chains*

**Dr. Richard Liang**, *Chief Technology Officer at Graphen Health*

**Grant Pollack**, *Partner and Chair, IP & Tech Law Practice Group at Ballon Stoll P.C.*

Moderated by **Dr. Fernando Gómez-Baquero**, *Director of Runway and Spinouts, Jacobs Technion-Cornell Institute at Cornell Tech*

3:00 PM

### Panel 5. Growing from Within: Investing in Innovation and Partnerships

Participants in this panel will discuss how a search for new, innovative tools to build predictability, resilience and trust in cross-border trade and investment can guarantee the weathering of uncertainty and the achievement of long-term success. Special attention will be paid to trade & investment innovations that involve the support of key government and economic development organizations.

**Ryan Silva**, *Executive Director of the New York Economic Development Council*

**Andrew Karolyi**, *the Charles Field Knight Dean of the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business, Cornell University*

Moderated by **Elena Iankova**, *President and Founder of CIBA*

3:30 PM

## Networking

4:00 PM

## End of Forum

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For additional information

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