



RUSSIA – ISLAMIC WORLD KAZANFORUM 2025

International Economic Forum of Russia and OIC countries
MAY 13–18, 2025

Summary of the 16th International Economic Forum “Russia-Islamic World: KazanForum 2025”

From 13 to 18 May, Kazan successfully hosted the **16th International Economic Forum “Russia – Islamic World: KazanForum”**, which is the main nationwide platform for building economic cooperation between the Russian Federation and the countries of the Islamic world.

The Forum’s **goal** is to strengthen trade, economic, scientific, technological, social and cultural ties between Russia and the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

The forum in numbers:

Participants:

The Forum’s expert and authoritative status was confirmed this year again, and record-high figures were achieved: the business programme was attended by **8,440 people from 96 countries with over 450 honoured guests among them.**

Welcome addresses to the Forum participants and guests were sent by:

- **Vladimir Putin**, President of the Russian Federation;
- **Marat Khusnullin**, Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Russia – Islamic World: KazanForum International Economic Forum;
- **Sergey Lavrov**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;
- **Rustam Minnikhanov**, head (rais) of the Republic of Tatarstan;
- **His Excellency Sheikh Ebrahim bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa**, Chairman of the AAOIFI Board of Trustees;
- **Hissein Brahim Taha**, Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC);
- **Muhammad Al Jasser**, Chairman of the Islamic Development Bank.

The forum included high-level foreign guests:

- Prime ministers – 1
- Vice prime ministers – 6
- Ministers – 14
- Vice ministers – 14.

Russian high-level participants:

- Vice prime ministers – 3
- Ministers – 3
- Vice ministers – 20
- Governors, regional heads – 11.



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The largest delegations came from:

Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Afghanistan, Iran, UAE, Senegal, Nigeria.

The largest business delegations were from:

Malaysia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kuwait, Morocco, Egypt, Bahrain, UAE, Afghanistan, Qatar, Türkiye.

The event was also attended by ambassadors and representatives from **43** embassies.

Media:

The Forum was covered by over 500 media representatives including **454** Russian and **47** foreign journalists from **20** countries.

Reports mentioning the forum were published in media outlets from **42** countries: Türkiye, Malaysia, Albania, Afghanistan, Iran, North Macedonia, India, Australia, Great Britain, Germany, Greece, Cyprus, Cuba, Latvia, Lithuania, UAE, Oman, Pakistan, Montenegro, USA, Czechia, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Venezuela, Vietnam, Canada, Georgia, Indonesia, Cuba, France, Tajikistan, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Argentina, Egypt.

Twenty-five media partners were involved in covering the forum including **three** foreign media outlets. **Five** studios were set up at the forum venue where **227** interviews were recorded.

Thirty-three press points were organised at **five** locations, and **seven** press conferences were held in the forum's media centre. A press conference was held at ITAR-TASS during the preparation for the forum.

The total number of press releases published on the official KazanForum website before and during the forum was **61**, including **38** during the forum days on 14-16 May.

Two hundred events were held during the forum, including **148** sessions with **990** speakers; **130** agreements were signed, including **75** international and **56** from the Republic of Tatarstan, totalling over a billion rubles.

Digitalisation of cooperation between Russia and OIC countries, international cooperation, a real estate exhibition and conference, sport, the halal industry, Islamic finance and investments, tourism, culture, the women's perspective track, business, economy, HR management today and tomorrow, science and technology, media activities and others were the **key themes** of the 2025 Forum.



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Main events of the Forum included a meeting of the Russia-Islamic World Strategic Vision Group with foreign high-level guests, the OIC Ministers of Culture Plenary Session Dialogue of Cultures – the Foundation for Preserving Identity and Diversity in a Multipolar World, the International Forum of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Islamic Countries, the Congress of Prosecutor Generals of the Russian Federation and OIC Countries, the Congress of Supreme Audit Institutions of OIC Countries, the OIC Young Diplomats Forum, etc.

The **8th Russia Halal Expo International Exhibition** was organised during the Forum. The exhibition featured **54** booths from **12** countries: Russia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, UAE, Iran, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Morocco, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Senegal. There were booths from **11** Russian regions: Republic of Tatarstan, Moscow, Kirov Region, Republic of Mordovia, Donetsk People's Republic, Vologda Region, Penza Region, Arkhangelsk Region, Karachay-Cherkess Republic, Nizhny Novgorod Region, Astrakhan Region.

Kazan Halal Market International Halal Fair

The fair held at the Kazan Agro-Industrial Park attracted **38,000** visitors and featured booths from **150** companies from **9** countries (Russia, Türkiye, Iran, India, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, UAE) and **16** regions of Russia.

International Property Market exhibition

This year, the **2nd** International Property Market exhibition, a unique platform for interaction designed to become one of the largest events in the real estate sector for Russia and Islamic countries, was organised at KazanForum.

The exhibition allowed strengthening international connections and interaction with investors from different countries. The IPM 2025 exhibition spanned over a thousand square metres. Its participants represented **57** companies with **29** developers among them and booths from the UAE, Azerbaijan and Türkiye.

Delegations and speakers from the UAE, Egypt, Qatar, Türkiye, India, Malaysia, Central Asian and African countries participated in the IPM 2025. Founder of MT Architects (Egypt) **Mohamed Talaat**, representative of the Academy of Architecture and Design (TraMod ACADEMY, Iran) **Javad Eiraji**, world-class expert on creating public spaces, President of Gil Penalosa & Associates **Guillermo Penalosa**, architect, urbanist, specialist in sustainable development in architecture and urban planning (Qatar) **Ali Alrauf**, founder and head of Mediterranean Design Lounge (Egypt) **Lilia Walaa Mohamed Ghurab**, architect and partner of WOWHAUS bureau **Oleg Shapiro** and others participated in the session.



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Global Trends in Real Estate: Adaptability, Digitalization, and Investments in an Era of Change plenary session was the main event of the exhibition programme. Its participants discussed how adaptability and innovation help create a sustainable urban environment that meets the needs of modern society. Special attention was paid to the digitalisation of processes in construction, property management and urban planning as well as their impact on investment attractiveness. Experts shared successful cases and strategies for an effective response to global changes. The session was moderated by Director General of Yakov and Partners **Yakov Sergiyenko**.

Vice Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation **Marat Khusnullin**, Vice Minister of Construction, Housing and Utility Services of the Russian Federation **Nikita Stasishin**, Chairman of the Board of the Azerbaijan-Russia Business Council, President of Agalarov Development **Emin Agalarov**, architect and urbanist **Ali Alrauf** were among the session speakers. **IBEIS 2025 International Islamic Symposium on the Built Environment** was held during the IPM 2025. It is a key international event involving architects, urbanists, researchers, representatives of state and religious departments. The role of Islamic values in the sustainable development of the urban environment, inclusive design, cultural identity, social activity, regenerative construction, eco-friendly architectural practices were its main themes.

The signing of **two** agreements became key events of the conference:

- On intention to interact during the implementation of an investment project in Zelenodolsk, Republic of Tatarstan;
- On cooperation between the Russia-UAE Business Council and the Azerbaijan-Russia Business Council.

Dialogue of Cultures – the Foundation for Preserving Identity and Diversity in a Multipolar World Plenary Session of OIC Ministers of Culture

The plenary session brought representatives from **17** member states together to discuss current issues of cultural identity and interaction amid globalisation. Finding a balance between preserving national and religious traditions and the need for dialogue in a multicultural environment was the central theme.

Its participants discussed modern challenges faced by societies living at the intersection of different cultures as well as opportunities arising from cultural diversity. Special attention was given to cultural policy, education, interfaith and interethnic interaction and the role of culture in strengthening social cohesion.

Ministers of culture and representatives from 12 countries (Russia, Azerbaijan, Guinea-Bissau, Djibouti, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, UAE, Pakistan, Somalia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), the director general of the Department of Public Arts of Iraq, the chairman of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization of Iran, representatives of embassies of **five** states in Russia (Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sierra Leone) as well as the director of the OIC Department of Culture, the director general of ICESCO and the representative of the League of Arab States in the Russian Federation participated in the session.



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North-South International Transport Corridor

During the discussion, participants exchanged new solutions and projects for the development of international transport corridors, priority areas for development, new vectors for regional logistics development and changes in logistics priorities.

Vice Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for the Development of the North-South International Transport Corridor **Vitaly Savelyev**, Deputy Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, Chairman of the Organising Committee **Marat Khusnullin**, Minister of Communications of Pakistan **Abdul Aleem Khan**, Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation **Roman Starovoyt**, Governor of Astrakhan Region **Igor Babushkin**, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World (UAE) **Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem**, Director General and Chairman of the Board of Russian Railways **Oleg Belozyorov** participated in the discussion.

International Forum of Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Online and offline participation in the CCI Forum included Representatives of **65** chambers of commerce and industry from **55** regions of the Russian Federation participated in the CCI Forum online and offline. Thirty-two heads of regional CCIs visited the Forum. The forum was also attended by heads of **23** foreign CCIs and business associations from **18** countries.

Meeting of the Russia-Islamic World Strategic Vision Group

The meeting was held at the Bashir Rameyev IT Park as part of KazanForum 2025 and was dedicated to youth policy and cooperation in the humanitarian sphere.

Prime Minister of Malaysia **Anwar bin Ibrahim**, Rais of Tatarstan **Rustam Minnikhanov**, Aide to the President, Special Representative of the President for International Cooperation in Transport **Igor Levitin**, Vice Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation **Marat Khusnullin**, head of the Federal Agency for Youth Affairs **Grigory Gurov** as well as representatives of the OIC, ICESCO, the League of Islamic Universities and other international organisations participated in the meeting.

The Strategic Vision Group's meeting was attended by 125 invitees including:

- **31** Russian members of the Group (out of a total of 42 SVG members).
- **15** international members of the Group (out of a total of 32 SVG members).
- **20** Russian honorary guests, including heads and representatives of seven regions of the Russian Federation: the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, the Karachay-Cherkess Republic, the Republic of Dagestan, the Republic of Bashkortostan, the Republic of Crimea, the Chechen Republic and Kirov Region;
- **24** international honorary guests;
- **35** diplomatic representatives of foreign states in Russia (ambassadors, diplomatic staff and consuls general).



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1st Partnership Finance and Investments: Facilitating Sustainable Development and Global Partnership International AAOIFI Conference

This conference was held in Russia for the **first** time and became one of the important events of the Forum's business programme.

The AAOIFI Plenary Session Utilizing the Potential of Partnership Finance in the Economic Development of the Russian Federation brought representatives of federal and regional authorities, international organisations, foreign regulators, academia and market participants together to discuss the role of partnership (Islamic) finance in Russia's socio-economic development.

It focused on the experience of countries that have successfully integrated partnership (Islamic) financial instruments into conventional financial systems and the possibilities of adapting these approaches in the Russian context. Participants discussed the results of the partnership financing pilot launched in 2023, its extension and the potential of partnership (Islamic) finance in attracting investments and implementing national and regional projects.

Chairman of AAOIFI His Excellency Sheikh **Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa**, deputy of the State Duma, Chairman of the State Duma Committee on the Financial Market **Anatoly Aksakov**, Senior Vice President of Sberbank **Oleg Ganeyev**, Senior Manager at the Higher Sharia Authority of the Central Bank of the UAE **Ahmad Alshammari**, Chairman of the AAOIFI Sharia Board Sheikh and renowned Islamic scholar (Bahrain) **Muhammad Taqi Usmani**, State Secretary and Vice Chairman of the Bank of Russia **Alexey Guznov** and others were among its speakers.

During the forum, AAOIFI represented by its Chairman Sheikh Ebrahim Bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa signed a number of agreements with leading Russian banks as well as with the Akhmat Kadyrov Chechen State University.

Digitalisation: A New Reality and Opportunities for Expanding Cooperation plenary session became a key event of the forum. The session was moderated by Secretary General of General Council for Islamic Banks and Financial Institutions (CIBAFI) Abdelilah Belatik. Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Russia – Islamic World: KazanForum International Economic Forum **Marat Khusnullin**, National Leader of the Turkmen People, Chairman of the Halk Maslahaty of Turkmenistan **Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow**, Prime Minister of Malaysia **Anwar bin Ibrahim**, Chairman of the Russia-Islamic World Strategic Vision Group, Rais of the Republic of Tatarstan **Rustam Minnikhanov**, Chairman of AAOIFI H.E. Sheikh **Ebrahim bin Khalifa Al-Khalifa**, Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan **Jamshid Khodjyaev**, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan **Shahin Abdulla oglu Mustafayev**, Group Chairman and CEO of DP World **Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem** were speakers of the event.



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9th OIC Young Diplomats Forum

The **9th OIC Young Diplomats Forum** — a key platform for dialogue between the young diplomatic community of Russia and the Islamic world — was held at KazanForum 2025. Over 9 years, more than **250** representatives from **45** countries have participated in the forum. This year, **50** young diplomats from **18** states including Oman, Bahrain, Cameroon, Kyrgyzstan and Iran, came to Kazan.

Diplomacy of Victory became this year's main theme dedicated to the role of diplomacy in achieving victory in World War II, the creation of the UN as a key instrument for maintaining international peace and security and the formation of a multipolar world order.

At the meeting with the delegates, Rais of Tatarstan Rustam Minnikhanov noted the contribution of young diplomats to organising high-level international events and emphasised the republic's priority in developing youth diplomacy.

The opening ceremony was attended by representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the League of Arab States and Russian public diplomacy institutions. In a video address, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov highlighted the forum's role in strengthening trust and mutual understanding between OIC countries and Russia.

11th Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum

The **11th Kazan OIC Youth Entrepreneurship Forum** took place at KazanForum 2025. It was organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Eurasian Regional Center of Islamic Cooperation Youth (ICYF-ERC), Selet Youth Foundation and the Youth Diplomacy Academy.

The 11th forum gathered **40** young entrepreneurs and experts from **13** countries (Azerbaijan, Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan and Russia) developing projects in remote areas. Participants presented their projects at individual pitching sessions, learned about best practices for developing remote areas in Russia and developed joint initiatives for rural tourism, agricultural innovation, educational products for remote areas and the “smart village” infrastructure project.

Modest Fashion Day festival

The 7th edition of the Modest Fashion Day hosted in Kazan. Collections were presented by **eight** designers from **seven** countries. Russia was represented by MIN_ZIFA (Ufa) and MARGA (Vladivostok). Shows were also held by Danjyo Hiyoji (Indonesia), Aadima (Qatar), Atiya Khan (Pakistan), Shehna Hussain (UAE), Amal Al Raisi (Oman) and Umed Kuchkaliev (Tajikistan).



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International Yunus Akhmetzyanov Young Chefs Tournament of Islamic Countries

The most talented professionals from **16** countries and **three** continents participated in the event including a team from Saudi Arabia competing for the first time. **Maissa El Kouni** from Tunisia won the Grand Prix.

The first memorandum on the development of gastronomy in rural areas was signed during the tournament.

East Cup Children's football tournament

Ten teams from **eight** countries participated in the competition: Oman, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan. Team Rubin won the children's tournament. The cup was presented by Rais of the Republic of Tatarstan **Rustam Minnikhanov**.

Managers of the football clubs that took part in the tournament participated in a sports session of the Forum's business programme. A Memorandum of Cooperation between Rubin FC and football clubs of OIC countries was signed as a result.

Football gala match with OIC young diplomats and Rubin FC stars

The programme of KazanForum included a friendly match that brought young diplomats and representatives of foreign ministries from 10 countries, stars of FC Rubin and Tatarstan authorities together. The main goal of the exhibition match between Legends and Diplomats teams was to demonstrate the absence of political, national, religious or any other barriers in sport. The match ended 7-4 in favour of the Legends.

Women's Perspective track

The solemn opening of Women's Perspective track aimed at developing female leadership and entrepreneurship was a special event. Director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs **Maria Zakharova** delivered a welcome address to the participants. The track united **51** speakers from **18** countries including the UAE, South Africa, Egypt, Pakistan and Oman. Notable speakers included Farida Al Awadhi (UAE), Inna Svyatenko (Russia), Riem Siam (Egypt), Zahra Ahmed (Pakistan), Amal Al Raisi (Oman), Slauzi Mogami (South Africa). **Seventeen** cooperation agreements were signed afterwards.

The event was organised by the Eurasian Women's Forum, the Union of Russian Women and Merhamet-Miloserdie Association of Female Deputies.

International Halal Business Woman and Halal Charity Woman awards

International Halal Business Woman and Halal Charity Woman awards were established in 2024 in honour of Zubeida bint Khalid and held at KazanForum for the second time. This year's contestants included representatives from Russia, Cameroon, India, UAE and Ghana – women strengthening business ties between Russia and OIC countries and contributing to the halal industry and international partnership.



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The 2025 Forum summed up the results of the contest and presented the international awards to female entrepreneurs and philanthropists:

- **Gulnara Nurullina**, Director General of HAYAT (Russia) – laureate of the Halal Business Woman award for outstanding abilities, entrepreneurial spirit and innovative business approaches.
- **Atuma Mari Bernadette**, CEO of AMB SERVICES (Cameroon) – laureate of the Halal Charity Woman award for outstanding qualities of humanism, compassion and empathy.

Sightseeing tours to four UNESCO sites were organised for all Forum participants: Kazan Kremlin, Sviyazhsk Island-Town, Ancient Bolgar and the Engelhardt Astronomical Observatory.

The 15th National Identity and Religion Russian Forum of Tatar Religious Figures opened at the Kazan Agro-Industrial Park. The forum traditionally brings together imams, Islamic scholars, clergy, public figures and experts from all over Russia.

Over a **thousand** delegates from **74** regions of the Russian Federation participated in the event. It is the largest gathering of Muslim clergy in Russia aimed at strengthening unity, exchanging experience and discussing current issues of Islamic life in a multi-ethnic country.

The programme included visits to the Kazan Halal Market and Tatar Bazaar exhibitions, a plenary session with Rais of Tatarstan **Rustam Minnikhanov**. On the final day, delegates visited the ancient city of Bolgar for the solemn event Holy Bolgar Gathering attended by about 25,000 people from Russia and abroad.

The first meeting of the **All-Russian Halal Industry Association** was also held where participants discussed the main challenges of the industry and the association's key goals.

The following events were held during the forum:

- Halal Accreditation Certificate from the Malaysian Department of Islamic Development (JAKIM) was awarded to Chairman of the Halal Standard Committee of the Muslim Religious Directorate of the Republic of Tatarstan Abbyas Shlyaposhnikov by Director General of JAKIM Datuk Dr Sirajuddin bin Suhaimi;
- SMIIC Standards Accreditation Certificate from the GCC Accreditation Centre was awarded to Chairman of the Halal Standard Committee of the Tatarstan Muslim Religious Directorate Abbyas Shlyaposhnikov by Director General of the GCC Accreditation Centre Moteb Almezani;
- GSO Standards Accreditation Certificate from the GCC Accreditation Centre was awarded to Chairman of the Halal Standard Committee of the Tatarstan Muslim Religious Directorate Abbyas Shlyaposhnikov by Director General of the GCC Accreditation Centre Moteb Almezani.
- Signing of a memorandum between Tatarstan Muslim Religious Directorate and the Accreditation Centre of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf and Yemen.
- Signing of a memorandum between the Halal Standard Committee of Tatarstan Muslim



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Religious Directorate and the Halal Industry Development Center under the Ministry of Economy and Commerce of the Kyrgyz Republic on the recognition of halal certificates issued by the Tatarstan Muslim Religious Directorate's Halal Committee in Kyrgyzstan and the inclusion of the Committee's certification body in the register of recognised halal product certification bodies;

- Signing of a memorandum on mutual recognition of halal certificates with representatives of Belarus;
- Signing of a memorandum on mutual recognition of halal certificates with representatives of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

A number of international cooperation events were also held:

1. Russia – UAE Business Bridge: pitch session;
2. Russia – MENA Countries: From Trade to Cooperation Projects;
3. Issues of Investment Cooperation in Developing Industrial and Trade Cooperation between Russia and the UAE;
4. Russian-Afghan Business Forum;
5. Meeting of the Working Group on Industry of the Russian-Turkish Mixed Intergovernmental Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation;
6. Russian-Malaysian Economic and Industrial Cooperation: Opportunities for Growth through Technology and Innovation;
7. Russia – Iran: Localisation of Gas Turbine Production;
8. Meeting of the Russian-Tajik Business Council;
9. Russia – Kazakhstan Industrial Dialogue: Development of Cooperation and New Projects;
10. Business Dialogue: Russia – Qatar.