



WEBINAR ON WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY

**“WOMEN DIPLOMATS AT THE FOREFRONT:
PROMOTING DIALOGUE AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE BLACK SEA”**

Monday 9 March 2026 | 11.00 - 13.45 EEST

Under the auspices of the Georgian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office



CONCEPT NOTE

On the occasion of **International Women’s Day (8 March)**, the **Permanent International Secretariat of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC PERMIS)**, in cooperation with the **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)**, and under the auspices of the **Georgian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office**, will convene a webinar entitled *“Women Diplomats at the Forefront: Promoting Dialogue and Development in the Black Sea.”*

The webinar seeks to underscore the essential contribution of women to advancing regional cooperation, fostering constructive dialogue, promoting peace, stability, and sustainable development in the Black Sea region. It aligns with international commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment, including the **UN Sustainable Development Goals**, in particular **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** and **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.

Women’s participation and leadership in diplomacy are widely recognized as key enablers of inclusive governance and effective multilateralism. Evidence and practice demonstrate that women bring diverse perspectives, enhance consensus-building processes, and contribute to more sustainable and inclusive outcomes in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and regional cooperation initiatives.

The webinar will bring together **senior women diplomats and practitioners from BSEC Member States and partner countries/institutions**, providing a platform for the exchange of experiences, good practices, and policy-oriented perspectives.

Discussions will focus on:

- ✚ The contribution of women to dialogue, peace, and cooperation in the wider Black Sea region;
- ✚ The role of women in strengthening BSEC as a confidence-building and conflict-prevention framework;
- ✚ The impact of increased gender balance in diplomatic services on shaping a more inclusive, resilient, and forward-looking regional vision;
- ✚ Progress achieved in women’s empowerment and gender equality leading to increased representation of women in ambassadorial, consular, and senior diplomatic roles.

The webinar will take place on **Monday, 9 March 2026**, from **11:00 to 13:45 (EEST)**. It aims to both recognize the contributions of women in diplomacy and encourage continued efforts to promote gender equality and women’s leadership in regional and international affairs, with a view to strengthening cooperation, peace, and sustainable development in the Black Sea region. -



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DRAFT AGENDA

11:00 – 11:15	Opening of the Webinar
	Welcome remarks
	Introductory remarks
11:15 – 11:30	High-Level Opening Session
	Statement by the Georgian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office
	Keynote Address: Women’s Leadership in Diplomacy and Multilateral Cooperation
11:30 – 12:10	Session I: Women Diplomats Advancing Dialogue and Peace in the Black Sea Region Focus: Women’s contribution to dialogue, peacebuilding, and conflict prevention, Added value of women’s participation in multilateral diplomacy
12:10 – 12:30	Interactive Discussion / Q&A Session Moderated questions from participants Brief responses from panelists (2–3 minutes each)
12:30 – 13:10	Session II – Special Panel: Strengthening Regional Cooperation through Women’s Leadership Focus: Women’s leadership within BSEC and regional frameworks Gender-inclusive diplomacy as a tool for confidence-building Shaping an inclusive and resilient vision for the Black Sea region
13:10 – 13:30	Interactive Discussion / Q&A Session Moderated questions from participants Brief responses from panelists (2–3 minutes each)
13:30 – 13:45	Summary of key messages and takeaways
	Closing remarks