



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
The Secretariat**

Vienna, 9 September 2021

Biographies of Moderators and Speakers

29th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

**“Promoting comprehensive security, stability and sustainable development in the
OSCE area through women’s economic empowerment”**

CONCLUDING MEETING

Prague, 9-10 September 2021

Venue: Czernin Palace, Loretánské nám. 5, 118 00 Prague

Opening session
Welcoming remarks

Moderator: Ambassador Ulrika Funered - Chairperson of OSCE Permanent Council, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE

Ms. Ulrika Funered is Ambassador and Head of the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. During the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship 2021 she holds the position as the Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council.

Prior to taking up her present position in 2017, she held several senior positions in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including as Deputy Head of Mission at the Swedish Embassy to the UK and as Counsellor Antici at the Swedish Permanent Representation to the EU.

Ambassador Funered has during the course of her career also held positions as Senior Advisor at the International Department of the Swedish Parliament and Legal Counsel at the Swedish Ombudsman Against Ethnic Discrimination.

Ambassador Funered holds a Master of Laws (International Law) from Lund University in Sweden.



H.E Ms. Ann Linde - Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sweden

Ms. Ann Linde is the current Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. She has held that office since September 2019.

Prior to that, Ms. Linde served as Minister for European Union Affairs and Trade, and from 2014 to 2016 she was State Secretary at Ministry for Home Affairs. From 2013 to 2014, she served as Head of the International Unit for the Party of European Socialists (PES), based in Brussels. She was the International Secretary of the Swedish Social Democratic Party from 2000 to 2013.

Among her numerous assignments she has served as a board member of the Olof Palme International Centre and the Anna Lindh Memorial Fund.



Ms. Linde has a bachelor's degree in political science, sociology and economics from Stockholm University.

H.E Mr. Jakub Kulhánek - Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czech Republic

Mr. Kulhánek was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic on 21 April 2021.

In his career so far, he has focused primarily on international relations and security. Prior to heading the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he worked for almost three years at the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic as a Deputy Member of the Government. He also worked as a deputy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and previously also at the Ministry of Defence. Prior to that, he worked as an advisor to the Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.



Mr Kulhánek has also been active in several professional institutions both in the Czech Republic and abroad. In 2012, he worked as a researcher at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Brussels. In addition to the Association for International Affairs in Prague, where as a researcher from 2007 to 2012 he led the Eastern European programme, he completed internships at the Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA) and the Euroasian Strategy Project.

Mr Kulhánek holds a master's degree from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington DC and the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University in Prague.

Ms. Helga Maria Schmid - OSCE Secretary General

Ms. Maria Schmid was appointed to the post of Secretary General of the OSCE in December 2020 for a three-year term.

She first joined the diplomatic service as Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister for European Affairs (1990–1991). Since then she has held several prominent diplomatic positions during her career.

Early on, she was Political Adviser to Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Head of Cabinet to Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer; and just prior to her appointment as OSCE Secretary General, she was Secretary General for the European External Action Service.

From 2011 to 2016, she was the Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs for the European External Action Service. Preceding that, she was the Director of the Policy Planning and Early Warning Unit (Policy Unit) of the High Representative for the CFSP in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union in Brussels.

Ms. Schmid has an MA in English and Romance languages, literature, history and politics (1980–1987) from Munich University (Ludwig Maximilians Universität) and the Sorbonne in Paris. Her mother tongue is German and she speaks fluent English and French.



“The Way to Stockholm”

Moderator: Ambassador Florian Raunig - Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE, Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee

Ambassador Florian Raunig is the Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE and Head of Department for OSCE, Council of Europe, Inter-parliamentary Union at the Ministry for European and International Affairs.

Previously, Ambassador Raunig was Austrian Ambassador to Albania and Montenegro. He also served as Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania and as the Head of the Austrian OSCE 2017 Chairmanship Task Force.

Ambassador Raunig holds a Magister philosophiae in political science, philosophy and law studies and is fluent in German, Albanian English, French, Italian and Montenegrin.



Introduction: Ms. Cecilia Tamm - Deputy Head of Task Force for Sweden's Chairpersonship of the OSCE

Deputy Director Tamm is Deputy Head of Task Force for Sweden's Chairpersonship of the OSCE during 2021.

Before taking on this role in December 2020, Deputy Director Tamm served as Head of Division for Human Rights at the Department for International Law, Human Rights and Treaty Law at the Swedish MFA (2015-2020).

Between 2011 and 2015 she served at the European Correspondence Office at the Swedish MFA, managing i.a. the preparations of the Foreign Affairs Council meetings. Deputy Director Tamm has also served at the Swedish Embassy in London.

Deputy Director Tamm has studied law at Uppsala University and KU Leuven and holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Uppsala University. She speaks Swedish, English and French.



Session I

“Promoting women’s economic empowerment in the post pandemic period for sustainable development and economic recovery”

Moderator: Ambassador Florian Raunig - Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE, Chair of the Economic and Environmental Committee

Ambassador Florian Raunig is the Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE and Head of Department for OSCE, Council of Europe, Inter-parliamentary Union at the Ministry for European and International Affairs.

Previously, Ambassador Raunig was Austrian Ambassador to Albania and Montenegro. He also served as Head of the OSCE Presence in Albania and as the Head of the Austrian OSCE 2017 Chairmanship Task Force.

Ambassador Raunig holds a Magister philosophiae in political science, philosophy and law studies and is fluent in German, Albanian English, French, Italian and Montenegrin.



Ms. Julissa Reynoso



**Co-Chair of the White House's
Gender Policy Council**

Julissa Reynoso is an Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to Dr. Jill Biden, and the Co-Chair of the Gender Policy Council at the White House. A former U.S. Ambassador to Uruguay, Reynoso also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs.

She is a former partner at the international law firms of Winston & Strawn LLP, and Chadbourne & Parke LLP, in New York, and served on the faculty of Columbia University School of Law and School of International and Public Affairs. Ms. Reynoso is widely published in English and Spanish on an array of issues including comparative law, regulatory reform, community organizing, immigration policy, and Latin American politics for both popular press and academic journals.

Ms. Reynoso holds a B.A. in Government from Harvard University, a Masters in Philosophy from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law. She clerked for the Honorable Federal Judge Laura Taylor Swain.

**Ambassador Kairat
Abdrakhmanov**



**OSCE High Commissioner on
National Minorities**

Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov of Kazakhstan took up the mandate of OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities on 4 December 2020. Prior to this role, Abdrakhmanov was Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Sweden and Denmark.

Amb. Abdrakhmanov joined the Kazakhstan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1993 and held a number of key positions. He was Foreign Minister from 2016 to 2018, and twice held the position of Deputy Foreign Minister. From 2013 to 2016, he was Kazakhstan's Permanent Representative to the UN, when he led Kazakhstan's bid to become the first Central Asian State elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. He then represented his country as the Foreign Minister on the UN Security Council between 2017 and 2018. Amb. Abdrakhmanov served as Kazakhstan's Permanent Representative to the OSCE from 2007 to 2013 and Chaired the OSCE Permanent Council in 2010 when Kazakhstan became the first post-Soviet country to hold the Chairmanship. He also served as the Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Austria, to the State of Israel from 2003 to 2006 and as Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Kazakhstan to the United Kingdom.

Ambassador Abdrakhmanov holds a degree in history from the Kazakh National University.

Ms. Mateja Ribič



State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of Slovenia

Ms. Mateja Ribič serves as State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the Republic of Slovenia.

Ms. Ribič graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Maribor. In recent years, she was awarded the title of Mediator and successfully completed the international Imago Professional Facilitator Training. Throughout her career, she has been on numerous training courses in people management, organisation, teamwork, crisis prevention and coaching, where the course providers were Slovenian and internationally recognised experts.

The past seven years, she worked as a director of a home for the elderly with more than 100 employees. Under her successful leadership, the competent ministry recognised the home as one that provides the friendliest home for the elderly. She continuously made efforts to carry out programmes that improve the quality of life of the residents. She and her colleagues tried to make sure that the residents would feel and live the same way as they did in their own homes.

Ms. Ribič is a strong advocate of deinstitutionalisation, home help development and day care centres. She also developed her career at the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, where she worked in the field of rights arising from compulsory health insurance for several years.

Furthermore, she broadened her expertise by working at an administrative unit, in court and at the former Slovene Human Resources Development and Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Albert Nikolla



**Deputy Minister, Ministry of
Health and Social Protection of
Albania**

Mr. Albert P. Nikolla serves as Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection within the Albanian Government since 2020.

Prior to such institutional role, he worked as National Director of Caritas Albania (2007 – 2017), as Lecturer of Cultural Anthropology and Ethics at the State University A. Moisiu. Durres., as well as Lecturer of Bioethics at both the “Our Lady of Good Council” Catholic University of Tirana (2004-2007) as well as “Università per Stranieri” University of Perugia, Italy.

From 2010 to 2014, Mr. Nikolla has been Member of Social Policy Commission of Caritas Europa, in Brussels.

Mr. Nikolla counts on remarkable international academic records, in particular, a PhD in Cultural Anthropology accomplished at the University of Florence, a Master in Bioethics (magna cum laude) at the University “Regina Apostolorum” in Rome and, not least, Bachelor and master in Religious Science at the Theological University of Triveneto.

Prior to these studies, Mr. Nicolla graduated in Agricultural Studies at the University of Tirana. Albania. Mr. Nikolla has been constantly contributing to numerous daily newspapers and holds a number of relevant publications.

Ms Stella Ronner-Grubačić



EU Ambassador for Gender & Diversity

Ms Stella Ronner-Grubačić was appointed on 1st July 2021 as the Ambassador for Gender and Diversity at the European External Action Service (EEAS).

After having obtained her Master's degree (European Studies) at the University of Amsterdam in 1989, and having finished post-graduate studies of International Relations at the Clingendael Institute in The Hague, Ms. Stella Ronner-Grubačić started her diplomatic career at the Dutch Foreign Ministry in August 1991.

She worked in the Foreign Ministry's multilateral department, after which she was posted at the Embassy in Belgrade. Her following posting in Paris was preceded by a year ('Cycle International') at the French 'Ecole Nationale d'Administration' in Paris. In 2001, Ms Ronner-Grubačić was seconded to the OSCE Mission to the FRY (Former Republic of Yugoslavia). Following that, she became Spokesperson to former Foreign Minister Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, at the time when the Netherlands carried out the OSCE Chairmanship. In 2004, she took up the position of Spokesperson for the Dutch EU Presidency.

Following various other positions in the Ministry in The Hague, including as Ambassador for the Millennium Development Goals, Ms. Stella Ronner-Grubačić was appointed Ambassador to Croatia in 2010. After having served in The Hague as Director of Communication, she was accredited as Ambassador to Romania and the Republic of Moldova. From Bucharest, she moved to Athens, where she was accredited as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Hellenic Republic in September 2019.

Session II

“Promoting women’s economic empowerment through policy formulation and implementation”

Moderator: Ambassador Hatun Demirer - Permanent Representative of Turkey to the OSCE

Ambassador Hatun Demirer serves the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey as career diplomat since 1990, focusing mainly on “Research and Intelligence”, “Balkans”, “Multilateral Economic Cooperation/ Regional Organizations”, “Middle East”.

Throughout her career, Amb. Demirer was posted in different Turkish Missions (Embassies in Denmark, Romania and Lebanon, Consulate Generals in Brussels/Belgium and New York/USA and Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg/France) until October 2013 when she was appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the Kingdom of Bahrain throughout December 2017.



As of 8 March 2021, Amb. Demirer serves as Permanent Representative of Turkey to the Organization of Security and Co-operation in Europe and, prior to this role, worked as the Director General in charge of consular, migration and visa issues within the Turkish MFA.

Ms. Maryna Artsiomenka



**Head of the Department of
Population, Gender and
Family Policy of the
Ministry of Labour and
Social Protection of Belarus**

Ms. Maryna Artsiomenka has been working in the social security system since 1998 and currently serves as Head of the Department of Population, Gender and Family Policy at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus, since April 2020.

Ms. Artsiomenka's department contributes to ensuring gender equality through the development and implementation of National Action Plans to ensure gender equality in the Republic of Belarus by providing organizational and technical support for the activities of the National Council on Gender Policy at the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, coordinating the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international documents and developing international cooperation initiatives, including in the framework of a number of international technical assistance projects.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Republic of Belarus in cooperation with the OSCE/ODIHR in Belarus held three International Forums of Women Leaders (in 2016, 2018, and 2019). The project "Establishing Mentor Networks for Women's Economic Empowerment in Belarus" was implemented together with the OSCE Gender Section (2018 – 2019).

Ms. Artsiomenka, who serves also as a member of the National Council for Gender Policy under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, graduated in 1995 at the Belarusian State University and at the Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus, in 2003.

Ms. Brigitta Gyebnár



**Head of the Unit for
Women's Policy in the
Ministry for Families of
Hungary**

Ms. Gyebnar is currently working as the Head of Unit for Department of Women's Policy at the Department of Adoption and Women's Policy in the Ministry of Families in Hungary. Prior to her current position, she was the Head of Department of Public Health at the Ministry of Health.

From 1997 to 2004, she worked as a senior lecturer at the University of Debrecen Tessedik Samuel Faculty of Health College.

In her working experience, she held a various administrative position from 2003 to 2016 such as: developing priorities Programme of Public Health and professional programmes of prevention, National Focal Point and member of Program Committee of EU Public Health Programme, prevention of environmental and local health, prevention of cancer and tasks of screenings (mammography, cervix and colon screening).

Ms. Gyebnar holds a Ph.D degree at the University of Pecs and currently she studies Government and Leadership MSc course.

Ms. Marisa Xuereb



**President of the Malta
Chamber of Commerce**

Marisa Xuereb has been elected President of the Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry in March 2021 for a two-year term, after having served as Deputy President for the previous two years.

Ms. Xuereb is an Economist and longstanding Managing Director of a German-owned manufacturing company in Malta, forming part of a stocklisted technology Group of Companies. She has 24 years' experience in corporate strategy, finance, HR, IT, operations management and product development. In this capacity, she is directly involved in international business dealings and multilateral project management, in a modern technological, industrial and market-driven business environment.

In addition to these roles, Ms. Xuereb has been serving, in several leading capacities, other Maltese institutions and entities such as the Malta College of Arts, Science & Technology, Malta Enterprise, Malta Life Sciences Park Ltd and Malta Industrial Parks Ltd. She has also worked with the University of Malta and the Central Bank of Malta earlier on in her career.

Ms. Xuereb holds a Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) in Economics and a Master of Arts in Economics, both accomplished at the University of Malta along with other important academic records.

Ms. Gulnora Makhmudova



**Chairperson of the Business
Women's Association of
Uzbekistan**

Ms. Gulnora Makhmudova graduated from the State University of Economics in Tashkent. She improved her professional qualifications in Europe, USA, and Japan.

She started her career as the accountant at joint venture in 1991, and rising to the position of General Director. Being a member of Business Women's Association, in 1998, she was elected as Chairperson of Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan in 2011.

For the years of under her leadership, among other achievements, the number of city and district branches of the Association reached 74. The Association unites more than 16 thousand.

As a result of successful implementation of projects by the Association, in the last seven years, it was created more than 140 thousand jobs, over 50 thousand women have been taught to basics of business, and more than 9 thousand unemployed women started their own business

Ms. Michelle Harding



**Head of the Tax Data and
Statistical Analysis Unit,
Centre for Tax Policy and
Administration, OECD**

Ms. Michelle Harding is a senior economist and Head of the Tax Data and Statistical Analysis Unit at the OECD's Centre for Tax Policy and Administration.

A co-author of the OECD's recent report on Taxing Virtual Currencies, she is also responsible for the OECD's Global Revenue Statistics Initiative, the calculation of effective tax rates on labour income, the Tax Database and Corporate Tax Statistics.

Michelle's earlier work at the OECD focused on environmental taxation and climate change, including the taxation of energy. She was a co-author of the original Taxing Energy Use (OECD, 2013, 2015) and Effective Carbon Rates (OECD, 2016) publications. In 2015, she led the G20 work on the taxation of SMEs, publishing a comprehensive overview of SME taxation in 39 OECD and G20 countries.

At the OECD, Michelle has also published work on taxation of dividends, capital gains and interest income, company car taxation, tax autonomy of subnational governments, tax & gender, drivers of consumption tax revenues, and the taxation of transport fuels in OECD countries. Prior to joining the OECD, Michelle worked at the New Zealand Treasury.

Session III

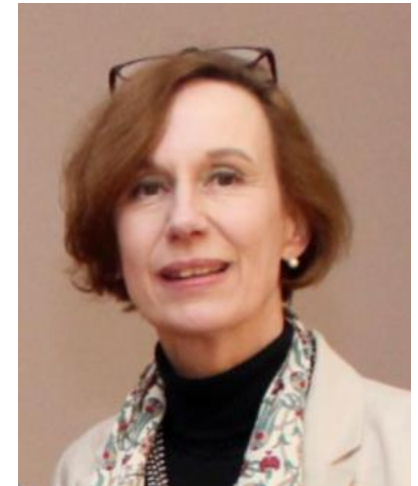
“Women’s economic empowerment in all stages of life”

Moderator: Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam - Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OSCE

Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam is the Permanent Representative of Germany to the OSCE.

During the span of her diplomatic career, she has also served as, among others, Political Counsellor at the German Permanent Delegation to NATO in Brussels (2005-2007), Member of Cabinet of the German Foreign Minister (2007-2011), Minister Counsellor at the Political Department of the German Embassy in Washington DC (2011-2014) and Head of the EU-Coordination Group at the German Federal Foreign Office (2014-2019).

She holds a University Degree (Staatsexament) in History and English from Eberhard-Karls Universität in Tübingen.



Ms. Brankica Jankovic



**Commissioner for protection
of equality of the Government
of the Republic of Serbia**

Ms. Brankica Jankovic, master lawyer, was elected Commissioner for the Protection of Equality of the Republic of Serbia for the first time in May 2015 and for the second time in November 2020 by the National Assembly.

Prior to the election, she held the position of the State Secretary in the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Policy from 2012-2014 and was the Director of the Gerontology Center Belgrade from 2006-2012.

She was the national project director on a string of projects, especially in the field of protection of women against violence – “Combating sexual and gender-based violence” and “Integrated response to violence against women“; she was the national coordinator of the Working Group on Aging of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; the head of Chapter 19 negotiations team (Social Policy and Employment) in the EU accession negotiation process, chairperson of the Subcommittee on Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement in the field of Research, Innovation, Information Society and Social Policy and member of the Political Council for the implementation of Resolution 1325 Women, Peace, Security.

Ms. Jankovic graduated at the Faculty of Law of the University of Belgrade, completed her master studies at the Faculty of Law of the University of Novi Sad and is a doctoral student at the Faculty of Security in Belgrade. She speaks English and Russian.

Mr. Oleksandr Pyzhov



**General Director of the
Directorate for European
Integration, Budgeting and
Policy Coordination,
Ministry of Education and
Science of Ukraine**

Mr. Oleksandr Pyzhov, born in 1996, was appointed as General Director of the Directorate European Integration, Budgeting and Policy Coordination of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, on February 26, 2021.

Since November 2016, he has been working at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine as a chief specialist and state expert and from August 2015 he worked as a legal adviser in the legal department of the University of Economics and Law "KROK".

Mr. Pyzhov is a postgraduate student of the Department of Constitutional Law of Ukraine, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University. In 2015, obtained the educational qualification level of a junior specialist in law at the College of Economics, Law and Information Technology of the University "University of Economics and Law" KROK ". During his studies, he was active in public activities in the student environmental club and scientific society.

Mr. Richard Teuten OBE



**Deputy Director of Economic
Cooperation and Growth
Department, Foreign,
Commonwealth &
Development Office, United
Kingdom**

Richard Teuten is Deputy Director of the Economic Growth Department (EGD) at the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office. EGD is responsible for policy and programmes on jobs and economic inclusion including women's economic empowerment; food security, land and agriculture; and manufacturing, services and business environment reform. This includes oversight of the UK's relationships with FAO and IFAD.

Prior to the merger of DFID and FCO, Richard was Deputy Director of DFID's Growth and Resilience Department, from June 2019, which led on these same issues and cities and infrastructure.

For the period 2011 to 2019, Richard was Deputy Director of DFID's International Financial Institutions Department which led on the UK's shareholder relationship with the World Bank and regional development banks, as well as DFID's engagement with the UK Treasury on IMF and debt policy.

From 2006 to 2010, Richard was Head of the UK Government's Stabilisation Unit, responsible for improving the coherence of UK support for countries suffering from violent conflict, with a particular focus on Afghanistan.

He also worked as Deputy Director of DFID's Latin America and Caribbean Department between 2003 and 2006, working closely with multilateral development banks in the region to promote more inclusive growth and empower excluded groups including women's groups.

Before joining the UK Government in 1984 he worked as an Overseas Development Institute fellow in the Botswana Ministry of Local Government and obtained economic degrees from the University of Cambridge and the University of Sussex.

Ph. Dr. Lenka Simerská



**Head of Gender Pay Gap
Reduction Portfolio, Chief
Administrator of the Project
22 % TOWARDS
EQUALITY, Department of
Family Policy and Protection
of Children’s Rights, Ministry
of Labour and Social Affairs,
Czech Republic**

Ms. Lenka Simerská serves as Head of Gender Pay Gap Reduction Portfolio, Chief Administrator of the Project 22 % TOWARDS EQUALITY within the Department of Family Policy and Protection of Children’s Rights, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, since 2016.

Prior to this role, Ms. Simerská has worked as an Independent Consultant providing research & analyses as well as advisory work in multiple projects at the local, national, regional, and international level covering gender, equal opportunities for women and men, work-life balance, and publishing.

From 2003 until 2010 Ms. Simerská has worked as Regional Coordinator of the Women’s Programme for Europe with Association for Progressive Communications, APC’s chief operating office, Melville, South Africa. At the same time, she has worked as Research Assistant of the Department / Research Affiliate / Researcher with the Institute of Sociology, Czech Academy of Sciences, Department of Gender and Sociology.

Ms. Simerská holds a doctorate degree in Sociology at the Institute of Sociological Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, in Prague.

Dr. Elgun Safarov



**Vice-Chairperson of the UN
CEDAW Committee,
Republic of Azerbaijan**

Dr. Elgun Safarov, is a Lawyer, expert on human rights protection, humanitarian and international law and is currently covering major the positions of Vice-chairperson of the United Nations CEDAW Committee, Member of the Election Commission of Public Council (non-governmental organizations) under the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Dr. Safarov has also organized and participated, as an expert and trainer, in numerous local, regional and international projects and has been lecturing in the areas of international and humanitarian law and international relations, UN, Council of Europe, European Union, gender equality, family law and other subjects in last 20 years. He has had an internationally recognized role in the preparation process of Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. In addition, he was directly involved in drafting of the Law on State Guarantees of Equal Rights for Women and Men, the Law on prevention domestic violence, amendments of Family, Penal, Civil Codes, legislation on reproductive health and prevention child marriages, national action plans, strategies and other legislative norms of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He has also contributed as lawyer in the process of free legal help for the victims of gender based violence and participated in the creation and accreditation of shelters for the victims of domestic violence, intercountry and internal adoption.

Dr. Safarov holds B.A., M.A. and a Ph.D. in international law accomplished at the Baku State University.

Concluding Session

Moderator: Ambassador Igli Hasani - Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna

Ambassador Igli Hasani was appointed Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna in February 2018. On January 2021 Ambassador Hasani assumed the position of the Chairperson of Asian Partners for Cooperation Group. During 2020, under the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship, Ambassador Hasani held the position of the Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council.

During 2019, as part of OSCE Troika, he was Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group. He has extensive experience in international security and has contributed to the shaping of the security and defence policy package of the Republic of Albania. He has 17 years of experience at the Albanian Ministry of Defence in various management roles, including as Secretary General (2017-2018), Director General for Defence Policy (2015-2017), Director of NATO and Foreign Relations (2013- 2014), Director of Euro-Atlantic Integrations (2013-2014) as well as director of the Press and Information, Policy and Media and Legal Affairs. Prior to his career at the Ministry of Defence, he worked as a journalist and editor for several newspapers and TV stations in Albania. Ambassador Hasani holds degrees in Law, Sociology and Philosophy from the University of Tirana, a Master in International Relations from King's College London, and is also a graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies.



H.E. Mr. Marcin Przydacz – Undersecretary of State for Security, the Americas, Asia and Eastern Policy, Republic of Poland

Marcin Przydacz is the current undersecretary of State for Security, the Americas, Asia and Eastern Policy.

Between 2015 and 2019, he served as deputy director of the Foreign Affairs Office at the Chancellery of the Polish President.

Between 2010 and 2014, he collaborated with the Jagiellonian Club as an international relations analyst. At the same time, he was involved with the Republic Foundation Centre of Analysis. From 2012 to 2015, he was a lecturer at the Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow, and from 2013 to 2015, he was President of the board of the Politics and Diplomacy Foundation, a think-tank.

A graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Jagiellonian University, he also studied international relations and philosophy at that university. A scholarship holder of Sapienza University in Rome, the University of Messina, and the "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy" National University in Kyiv. He also graduated from the Italian and European Law School at the University of Warsaw.

He completed advocate training at the Krakow District Bar Council, and passed the bar exam in 2015.



Ambassador Vuk Žugić – Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

Ambassador Vuk Žugić has been the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities since 2017. Acting in support of the Chairman-in-Office, he is charged with strengthening the ability of the Permanent Council and the OSCE institutions to address economic, social and environmental aspects of security.



Ambassador Žugić is a career diplomat with international experience in various high level positions. Before joining the OSCE Secretariat, he acted as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna (2012-2017). He also served as Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council during Serbia's OSCE Chairmanship in 2015.

Prior to that assignment, between 2004 and 2009, he was Ambassador of Serbia to the Republic of India. Amongst other significant functions, Ambassador Žugić held the positions of Assistant Foreign Minister/Director General, Directorate General for Multilateral Cooperation (2009-2012), Assistant Foreign Minister, and Head of Sector for Multilateral Cooperation (2001-2004) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Serbia.

Ambassador Žugić holds a Master's degree in International Law and Relations from the University of Belgrade.

Ambassador Tobias Lorentzson – Deputy Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE, Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee

Ambassador Lorentzson has over 16 years of experience in the Swedish diplomatic service and served as Deputy Head of Mission and Head of Political Section at the Embassy of Sweden in Moscow.

Prior to that, Ambassador Lorentzson was Desk Officer for Belarus, Armenia and Azerbaijan at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, served as First Secretary at the Swedish Mission to the UN in Geneva and as Second Secretary at Swedish Embassy in Guatemala.

Ambassador Lorentzson holds a Master in International Relations, Sciences Po, Paris.

