



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

On the occasion of International Women’s Day (8 March), BSEC PERMIS in cooperation with the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) and under the auspices of the Georgian BSEC Chairmanship-in-Office, convened a webinar entitled *“Women Diplomats at the Forefront: Promoting Dialogue and Development in the Black Sea”* on 9 March 2026.

The webinar brought together around 100 participants, including senior women diplomats, representatives of international organizations, experts and academics from BSEC Member States and partner institutions. Discussions focused on the contribution of women to dialogue, peace and cooperation in the wider Black Sea region, the impact of increased gender balance in diplomatic services, as well as progress achieved in women’s empowerment and gender equality.

The participants also addressed challenges that continue to affect women’s representation in leadership and decision-making processes, and highlighted in this context the importance of mentorship, networking opportunities, education and regional cooperation frameworks in advancing gender equality.

In his opening remarks, BSEC PERMIS Secretary General Ambassador Lazăr COMĂNESCU highlighted that placing women at the forefront of diplomacy underscores their ability to foster dialogue and cooperation. He referred to their leadership, dedication, professionalism and vision, emphasizing that inclusivity strengthens cooperation and ensures that collective efforts are more resilient and impactful.

Closing remarks were delivered by BSEC PERMIS First Deputy Secretary General Ambassador Dr. Merve Safa KAVAKCI, who underlined the importance of women’s empowerment and gender equality and the need to further improve women’s status.

Participants expressed their appreciation to the Georgian Chairmanship-in-Office, BSEC PERMIS and ICBSS for organizing the webinar and providing a valuable platform for dialogue on strengthening women’s role in diplomacy and regional cooperation.