

Nina Vaskunlahti

Ambassador
Under-Secretary of State
International Trade

Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland



Ms Nina Vaskunlahti has been serving as the Under-Secretary of State for International Trade since June 2019 at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Ms Vaskunlahti (born 1959) joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1984, after graduating from the University of Turku in 1983 with a Master's Degree in Political Sciences. Since then, she has served in various functions at Finland's bilateral missions to Mexico, Australia and the Russian Federation. She was also seconded to the Office of the High Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Her most recent assignments prior to assuming her current post included Ambassador of Finland to India and Bangladesh (September 2016 – June 2019), and previously Ambassador to Turkey (September 2012 - August 2016) as well as Director General of the Department for Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Ms Vaskunlahti has held various functions at the Finnish Permanent Representation to the European Union, including the position of Deputy Permanent Representative (August 2004 – August 2008).

Since 2019, she has been the Representative of the Foreign Ministry in the Team Finland Steering Group and Business Finland Board of Directors as well as a member at the National Emergency Supply Council. She is also Finland's Alternate Governor to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

After nearly four decades spent in foreign affairs, Ms. Vaskunlahti strongly believes in the strength of international cooperation and dialogue. Irrespective of country or posting, she bases her work on the Finnish strongholds of equality, innovativeness and trustworthiness. She has always been a strong advocate for gender equality.

Ms Vaskunlahti is married. Her hobbies include visiting art museums, reading, various light sports, gardening and sailing.

