



# **WOMEN IN DIPLOMACY for Sustainable Development**

**Inaugural Forum**

**International Day of Women in Diplomacy**

**Breaking Barriers, Shaping the Future: Women in Diplomacy for  
Sustainable Development**

**Concept Note**

**23 June 2023, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**In Virtual Format**

**10.00 – 13.00**

**#June24 | #WomeninDiplomacy | #EquityInDiplomacy | #ScienceDiplomacy |  
#BringingEveryoneForward**

**@RASITHQ | @MaltaUNMission**

## Concept Note

The Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT) and the Permanent Mission of Malta to the United Nations are organizing the First High-Level Forum celebrating “**International Day of Women in Diplomacy**”, to be held **virtually** at the United Nations HQ, on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023, from 10.00 – 13.00 (US-EST).

Pursuant to the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/76/269 proclaiming 24 June as the International Day of Women in Diplomacy (IDWID) and recognizing Women in Diplomacy as important agents to further Socio-Economic Equitable and Inclusive Sustainable Development, this inaugural Forum will provide a first of its kind opportunity for Youth to engage with women diplomats as role models. It will further promote and strengthen the engagement of women in science to support their peers in diplomacy as fundamental agents for peace and multilateralism, herewith referring to the Outcome Documents of the 5th and 7th International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assemblies held in UNHQ and endorsed by Member States and Intergovernmental organizations. More specifically:

- “Calls upon Member States to increase the participation of women in science in diplomatic missions, and at decision-making levels in diplomacy and foreign policy”, (2020)
- “Encourage Member States to increase the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women in science in decision-making at all levels in public sector, including in diplomacy and foreign policy” (2022).

The Forum, organized by RASIT’s programs: World Youth League and Women in Science International League, will bring together women in diplomacy with Youth and women in science experts from around the world, to **discuss role of women diplomats Breaking Barriers, re-Shaping the Future of achieving the three pillars of sustainable development**, namely economic prosperity, social justice, and environmental integrity.

Following the adoption of Resolution A/RES/70/212 on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science in 2015, RASIT continues to work with UN Member States, the UN and Intergovernmental Organizations to contribute to the achievement of equality in all fields of sciences, for socio-economic sustainable development, in line with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

RASIT defines Science as all-encompassing knowledge based on scholarship and research undertaken in the natural and social disciplines, including the arts and humanities, which is underpinned by methodologies that build up and test increased understanding about our world and beyond.

It is noteworthy that diplomacy, like science, is driven by a desire to tackle real world challenges such as climate change and inequality. Therefore, the Forum will highlight on how women diplomats can innovate and lead policy solutions that can help create more sustainable, prosperous, peaceful, and equal societies.

### ***More specifically, it will:***

- highlight the critical role of diplomacy in decision-making by focusing on the importance of expert and professional women in diplomatic negotiations.

- Address the challenges and obstacles experienced by women in diplomacy, especially by young women, to highlight the most relevant solutions for future leaders.
- Zoom in on women in diplomacy and discussing building capacity.
- Recognize the interplay and interdependency between science, technology, and diplomacy;
- Identify conditions and propose tools to put science, technology, and innovation at the heart of diplomacy.
- Showcase the need to integrate understanding of social aspects and cultural dimensions in diplomacy especially with capacity development.

The Inaugural Forum of the IDWID will feature interactive conversations led by youth with women diplomats in the international community.

The IDWID inaugural Forum will feature Four high-level conversations with distinguished women ambassadors.

The 1<sup>st</sup> conversation will Tackle success stories of women ambassadors in a Ted-Like format. As well as the main challenges and obstacles that these experts experience in their diplomatic journey.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> conversation: will feature women in diplomacy for sustainable development goals, with special focus on SDG 6 reviewed at the HLPF to be held in July 2023, and in line with the water summit 2023 midterm review. This conversation will be discussing how water impacts peace and multilateralism, and their future vision.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> conversation: Breaking Barriers in Diplomacy. This conversation highlights the inclusion of disabled diplomats by showcasing how they overcome the stereotype of physical disabilities. RASIT Female blind scientists will moderate the conversation.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Conversation will focus on science diplomacy for peace and sustainable development.