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Currently Deputy Director General at the Department for Africa, Middle East and Latin America, Pirjo Suomela-Chowdhury has also served at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as Director for Southern and Western Africa (2022-2023), Director for United Nations Development Affairs (2010-2014), Team Leader for EU Development Policy (2008-2010), and Deputy Director for General Global Affairs (2007-2008).

She has been posted to Abuja, as Ambassador of Finland to Nigeria, Ghana, Benin and Liberia (2014-2018), and to Lusaka, as Ambassador to Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (2018-2022). Her other foreign postings include Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Finland in Santiago de Chile (2003-2007), and Second Secretary at the Embassy of Finland in Beijing, China (2000-2003).

At the Ministry for Foreign Affairs she has also served at the Unit for United Nations Affairs, Political Department, and at the Secretariat for Nordic Cooperation.

She holds a Master's Degree in Social Sciences from the University of Tampere, Finland, and completed the diplomatic training course at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1997.

