

# Kirsikka Lehto-Asikainen

Ambassador  
Helsinki Policy Forum  
and the Gulf region

**Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs of Finland**



Ambassador Kirsikka Lehto-Asikainen is the Finnish Ambassador for Helsinki Policy Forum and the Gulf region since September 2023.

Prior to this, she served as Ambassador of Finland to Israel (2019 –2023). Previously, she worked as the Director for the Middle East and North Africa in the Finnish MFA (2014-2019).

Her experience includes also working in the Ministry of Defence of Finland, and in the MFA in several positions, such as Advisor to the Secretary of State and Team leader for NATO affairs. She has been assigned to the Embassies of Finland in Paris, France and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Ambassador Lehto-Asikainen joined the Finnish MFA in 1998.

Ambassador Lehto-Asikainen holds a Master of Sciences in International Business from Helsinki School of Economics, including studies at Ecole Supérieure de Commerce de Paris. She has also a Master of Social and Human Sciences in European Studies and International Affairs from Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne. She has completed Post-graduate studies at Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA), France.

Ambassador Lehto-Asikainen is married and has two children. Her hobbies include horse riding, pilates and music.

