

H.E. MR. ZURAB POLOLIKASHVILI



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Kingdom of Spain, the Principality of Andorra, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco

Permanent Representative of Georgia to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

Ambassador POLOLIKASHVILI has broad experience of working in both private and public sectors at high-profile positions.

He has extensive diplomatic experience, having represented Georgia to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), as well as serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Spain. He also held a position of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2005 to 2006.

Current Position

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Kingdom of Spain, the Principality of Andorra, the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Permanent Representative of Georgia to the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

2009-2010, Minister of Economic Development of Georgia.

As Minister of Economic Development of Georgia, Ambassador Pololikashvili was responsible for overseeing the country's long-term fiscal growth strategies, for advancing foreign trade and investment policy initiatives, as well as for promoting the development of tourism, infrastructure and transportation sectors. He was instrumental in launching an innovative policy for the development of tourism in Georgia, prioritizing the sphere on both the government and private sector agendas.

During Ambassador Pololikashvili's tenure as the Minister of Economic Development, through key policy reforms, marketing activities, improvement of infrastructure and visa liberalization initiatives, Georgia managed to nearly double the annual number of international arrivals, from 1.5 million (in 2009) to exceeding the 2.8 million mark by 2011. Those reforms paved the way for

sustainable tourism practices in Georgia and poverty alleviation initiatives, placing Georgia among top tourist destinations in the region.

Minister Pololikashvili successfully led the economic liberalization processes, introducing more supportive policies for SMEs, and incentive programs to attract foreign investment for development of hard and soft infrastructure.

2006 – 2009 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Kingdom of Spain.

2005 – 2006 Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. In this capacity as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, he supervised the departments for administrative, budgetary, financial and consular affairs, as well as the Department for Human Resources Management. Pololikashvili was responsible for ushering in a new phase of more liberal and secure visa regimes, facilitation of processes to ease border crossing procedures, and deepening relations with various international organizations, including the UNWTO.

Experience private sector.

Ambassador Pololikashvili's private sector experience includes several years in the financial and banking sectors, serving as the Manager of International Operations for TBC Bank (one of the most successful banks in Georgia), Director of TBC Bank's Central Branch Office (2001-2005) and the Vice President of TBC Group (2010 – 2011)

In 2001 – 2011 Ambassador Pololikashvili was CEO of FC Dinamo Tbilisi, the leading professional football team in Georgia.

Academic Qualifications.

2008 – 2009 Global Senior Management Program (GSMP), IE Business School, Instituto de Empresa, Madrid, Spain

1994 – 1998 Bachelor's Degree in Banking, Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi, Georgia.

Personal Data

Date of birth: 12 January 1977, Tbilisi, Georgia

Marital status: Married and has three children

Languages: Georgian (native)

English, Spanish, and Russian (fluent)

French, Japanese and Polish (spoken)