

Ambassador Shota Gvineria

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## Summary

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16 years of progressive working experience in the government sector, mainly in foreign relations and security policy areas. Held senior management positions in national government agencies and missions abroad. Participated in design and implementation process of Georgia's reform agenda. Have deep understanding of the work of the government institutions, Inter-agency cooperation and intergovernmental relations.

More than 10 years of effective experience of working with international organizations and NGO's. Was directly involved in strategic planning, development and implementation of conceptual documents, state programs and annual plans. Have expert knowledge of integration processes with European and Euro-Atlantic structures.

Extensive experience of cooperation with the private sector in developing economic, business, social and cultural projects. Planned and implemented joint events and initiatives, such as fundraising efforts, involving state agencies and non-governmental actors. Experience in designing and implementation of a number of large scale projects.

Have strong negotiation, communication and problem solving skills, solid background in developing analytical materials and political reporting, and a proven ability to operate on strategic as well as on tactical and operational levels

## Experience

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### **Deputy Secretary, National Security Council of Georgia**

August 2017 - Present

Key areas of responsibility: Euro-Atlantic integration; Regional (Black Sea) security; Hybrid threats; Strategic communications; Counter-terrorism; Analysis of the national security system

- Strategic planning of the NSC activities and outcomes;
- Elaboration of the conceptual documents and action plans;
- Engagement with foreign partners;
- Negotiating and running joint projects with key allies

### **Senior Fellow, Economic Policy Research Center**

August 2017 – present

- Research on hybrid warfare with the special focus on economic and information warfare tools;
- Subject matter expert on foreign, defense and security policy related issues;
- lecturing and training in corresponding areas of expertise

### **Founding Member of the Board at the Netherlands Georgia Business Council**

April 2012 - Present

- Matchmaking and facilitating of the joint projects involving the private sector of the two countries through initiatives such as organizing trade missions, B2B meetings, seminars and business forums
- Providing platform for sharing business ideas and discussing opportunities, including collecting and sharing information regarding the legislative base, trade regulations, export-import procedures and tax systems
- Using extensive networks in the Netherlands and Georgia to boost bilateral trade and investments as well as to facilitate the transfer of technologies and knowhow

### **Ambassador at Large, NATO & Security Policy at Ministry of Foreign Affairs** October 2016 – August 2017

- Strategic and conceptual planning of the Euro-Atlantic integration process
- Promoting Georgia's Euro-Atlantic integration in the NATO member states
- Cooperation on deterring hybrid threats with NATO and the Allies
- Facilitating dialogue on regional security with NATO through relevant bilateral and multilateral formats

### **Foreign Policy Advisor to the Minister at Ministry of Defense of Georgia**

June 2015 - August 2016

- Led and supervised NATO integration and bilateral relations in defense and military sphere
- Served as the National coordinator for Implementation of the projects under the NATO-Georgia Substantial Package (SNGP)
- Developed and implemented 13 parallel large scale projects under the SNGP
- Organized fundraising and resourcing for all SNGP projects-
- Organized international Georgia Defense and Security Conference (GDSC) in 2015 and 2016

- Allocated and managed Embassy's budget
- Led negotiations with the Dutch side on key issues such as Georgia's territorial integrity and conflict resolution process, Dutch support of Georgia's democratic reforms—rule of law, judiciary, minority rights, Dutch support of Georgia's economic development process—direct foreign investments, trade promotion, development aid programs
- Oversaw political reporting and communication between the governments of the two countries
- Led negotiations with the Dutch authorities regarding the facilitation of Georgia's EU integration— Generating support of the Dutch parliamentary parties for the signature and ratification of the Association Agreement (including DCFTA); Enhancing Dutch Government's support for Georgia's visa liberalization
- Implemented strategic messaging aimed at raising awareness on Georgia's priority agenda through country branding, image building and public diplomacy
- Supported joint activities of the Dutch and Georgian NGOs
- Facilitated partnerships in the academic sphere—initiated the establishment of the Visiting Professorial Chair in Georgian Languages, Culture and Society at Leiden University (Board member of the professorship); conducted guest lectures
- Served as the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
- Led communication between the government of Georgia and the International Court of Justice regarding Application of CERD (Georgia vs. Russian Federation) as the Agent
- Served as the main POC of the Georgian government before the International Criminal Court
- Closely worked with OSCE HCNM office on national minority issues
- Negotiated partnerships with EUROPOL and EUROJUST, including strategic partnership agreement

**Director, European Affairs Department at MFA of Georgia**

February 2009 - May 2010

- Managed bilateral agenda with 46 European countries
- Participated in the policy making process related to the strategic cooperation with Europe
- Managed staff of 26, developed job descriptions and work strategies, adjusted department's structure according to the foreign policy priorities;
- Elaborated analysis on political and economic developments in European countries in close cooperation with Georgian missions abroad
- Oversaw and supervised work of 26 Georgian Embassies in European capitals
- Coordinate ministry's initiatives directed at ensuring the full support of the European countries towards Georgia's EU integration
- Prepared talking points, background briefs and speeches for Georgia's political leadership for engagement with partners
- Hosted high and highest level delegations of European countries in Georgia

**Head, NATO Division at MFA of Georgia**

October 2008 - February 2009

- Provided overall coordination of the Euro-Atlantic integration process
- Drafted key conceptual and strategic documents and oversaw their implementation
- Actively participated in drafting and implementing the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP)
- Coordinated work of Georgia's Inter-agency Commission aimed at developing reform priorities
- Led the preparation of NATO assessment missions to Georgia
- Prepare talking points, background briefs and speeches on NATO for Georgian high officials

**Councilor, Georgian Mission to NATO at NATO**

April 2006 - October 2009

- Led NATO-Georgia cooperation agenda in security sphere
- Assumed liaison functions with NATO office of security
- Acted as the main point of contact on information sharing between Georgia and NATO
- Facilitated communication between Georgian officials and NATO International Staff on key security related issues
- Developed projects aimed at technology exchanges with NATO

## **Politico-Military Department at MFA of Georgia (various positions)**

2001 - 2006

- Worked on various aspects of politico-military policy
- Served as the desk officer for NATO
- Carried out junior diplomatic duties
- Elaborated a wide range of documentation and analytical papers for the leadership of the Ministry

## Education

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### **National Defense University, Washington DC, the US**

2014 - 2015

Master's in strategic security studies, International security affairs and combating terrorism

### **Diplomatic School of Madrid, Spain**

2004 - 2005

Master's in International Relations, International Relations and Affairs,

### **Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi**

2000 - 2001

Master's in Public Administration,

### **Georgian Technical University, Tbilisi**

1996 – 2000

Bachelor in Public Administration, Public Administration,

## Certificates

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### **Stanford Center on democracy, Development, and Rule of law**

March 2017

Leadership Academy for Development Program

### **The Clingendael Institute**

May 2017

Curriculum Design

### **NATO School Oberammergau**

Public Information Course

March 2004

NATO European Security Cooperation

February 2003

Resource Management Education Programme (RMEP)

October 2002

## Languages

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**Georgian** (Native); **English, Russian** (Full professional proficiency);

**Spanish** (Limited working proficiency); **French** (Elementary proficiency)

## Publications

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### **Georgia's NATO integration – Strategic patience**

Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies; May 23, 2017

### **Information Warfare – New Security Challenge for Europe**

Center for European and North Atlantic Affairs; April 24, 2017

### **Black Sea Security in NATO Spotlight**

Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies; **October 1, 2016**