

BIOGRAPHY



Kirsti Helena Kauppi

Ms. Kirsti Kauppi became Ambassador of Finland to the United States in September 2015. Before that (2012-2015) she was Political Director (Director General for Political Affairs) at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Helsinki. In 2009-2012 Ambassador Kauppi served as Director General for Africa and the Middle East.

In 2005 she was appointed Ambassador of Finland to Austria and Permanent Representative to the UN-related international organizations located in Vienna. During her term in Vienna, Ambassador Kauppi also served for three years as the Finnish Governor in the IAEA Board of Governors, including vice-chair of the Board.

In addition to Vienna, Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi has served in the Finnish Embassies in Berlin (2003-2005) as Deputy Chief of Mission (Minister), in Washington (1997-2000), as well as Bangkok (1989-92). Ambassador Kauppi's solid knowledge on European Union affairs builds on her four year service (1993-1997), in the Finnish Permanent Mission to the EU in Brussels. Later on (2001-2003) she was head of EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy coordination in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Helsinki. This was after serving two years (2000-2001) as advisor to the State Secretary.

In the beginning of her career in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1983, Ms. Kauppi worked primarily with development cooperation issues, including a two-year period (1985-86) in the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva.

Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi was born in 1957 in Oulu, Northern Finland. She studied in the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration and received her Master's degree in Economics in 1981. In 1983 she joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland where she has made her professional career since then.

Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi is, in addition to her native Finnish, fluent in English, Swedish, German and French. She is an avid reader of history and enjoys walking and bicycle riding in her free time.