

**Journal
Foreign Affairs
Publication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Portuguese Republic**

Call for Papers

**Thematic Edition
Women in Diplomacy**

Call for Papers

Women make up half the world's population, but they are rarely equally represented in the places where decisions about their lives are made (in politics and on boards of directors, for example). Even though more and more women are taking on leading positions in foreign policy, whether as Presidents, Prime Ministers, or Ministers, the diplomatic scene is still majority male-dominated, especially in senior positions.

In Portugal, until 1975, the diplomatic career was closed to women. 49 years later, the proportion of women is still far from balanced. Although women constitute about half of the candidates for diplomatic careers, this balance does not correspond to the level of candidates admitted.

There are currently 35 female ambassadors accredited to Portugal out of a universe of 126 accredited heads of mission. Out of a universe of 528 Portuguese diplomats, there are 172 female diplomats, which corresponds to 32.57%. The head of mission of a Portuguese Embassy was assumed by a female diplomat for the first time in 1998. Currently, only 25.8% of Portugal's heads of mission abroad are women.

These numbers bring relevance to the celebration of the International Day of Women in Diplomacy, on June 24th, as well as several initiatives to unite female diplomats, in capital cities or in multilateral organizations. The International Day of Women in Diplomacy was proclaimed through Resolution 76/269, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on June 20th, 2022, and is also framed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN Agenda 2030, whose motto is "Leave no one behind", consecrating SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls".

In several countries, starting in Sweden (in 2014), moving through the Netherlands (2022) and ending in Germany (2023), "strategies for a feminist foreign policy" have been published. Feminist foreign policy, or feminist diplomacy, is a concept that requires that a State promotes values and good practices to achieve gender equality and ensure that all women enjoy their human rights, through diplomatic relations.

In academia, there are debates about whether a State's foreign policy and its priorities reflect 'typically masculine' concerns associated with traditional defense and security issues, relegating 'typically feminine' concerns, such as development or conflict prevention to the background. Gender diplomacy debates analyze the advantages of having women in diplomacy and foreign policy, usually highlighting their 'different way of doing things'. They argue that it is important to have women in diplomacy because they have specific skills that differ from those of men. Is this really the reason why it is important to involve them more? Is it not rather that women's participation should improve because they are full citizens and have the right to be equally represented and to have their interests and views equally reflected in all fields?

The topic "Women in Diplomacy" is broad and the questions are many: do female diplomats face specific challenges? Which ones and how can they be solved? How can diplomacy and foreign policy be strengthened through the participation of women? Is this a 'women's' issue? Or is it a foreign policy and diplomacy issue that involves women and men? Does having women in high positions in institutional structures actually make a difference? If so, is it enough? And how do these questions play out in different regions of the world? Are the experiences of female diplomats similar or do they differ depending on their social, cultural and political context?

In this context, the Foreign Affairs Journal – a biannual publication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, endowed with scientific autonomy and focused on Diplomacy and International Relations – invites all interested parties to submit articles on the following topics:

- Women's participation in diplomacy: historical analysis, statistical approach and/or qualitative analysis
- Gender Diplomacy: integrating a gender perspective into foreign policy actions and decision-making processes
- Feminist foreign policy: insertion of gender equality policies in all external action policies

Publication norms

Articles and academic papers must be previously unpublished and written in Portuguese or English. Texts must be sent in Word format, between 3000 and 5000 words in length, and be accompanied by an abstract of no more than 120 words. The submitted papers must be duly revised and ready for publication.

For the sake of readability, the use of footnotes should be kept to a minimum. The text of the notes should also be brief.

Citation of monographs, articles and other publications should be guided by the APA 7th norm (see rules [here](#) or [here](#)).

Authors should send information about their name, position, institution to which they belong, and e-mail address.

Details on the editorial norms can be found [here](#). Non-compliance to these publication rules is sufficient reason for rejection of a proposal by the Editorial Board.

The deadline for submission of articles is July 31st, 2023.

Papers should be sent to: ceae.idi@mne.pt