



Joint conference

**Modern International Maritime Law –
exploring the interplay between
international and national norms**

Special Speaker – Professor Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez
Director of IMLI

In memoriam of an honorable Academician Professor Levan Alexidze
the founder of International Law studies in Georgia

September 25 , 2023
Tbilisi, Georgia



Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University



**International Law Institute
Faculty of Law, TSU**



IMO International Maritime Law Institute



Batumi State Maritime Academy

In memoriam of an honourable academician

Professor Levan Alexidze



Distinguished Scientist
Full Member of Georgian National Academy of Sciences
Public figure
Diplomat and
The Founder of the Georgian School of International law

From the very first days since reinstatement of Georgia's independence in 1991, the Georgian School of International Law was established and developed under the initiative and leadership of Professor Levan Alexidze (1926- 2019), Full Member of Georgian National Academy of Sciences, Holder of numerous State Awards, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, globally recognized scholar, state and public figure. Professor Alexidze served as the responsible staff of Human Rights Department in New York and Geneva, UN Secretariat (1970-1977), Representative of Georgia at the UN Commission on Human Rights, Member of the Georgian delegation to the UN-led Geneva talks (aimed at resolving the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia); Expert on Legal Affairs at the Rome Conference on the International Criminal Court (July 1998); Member of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance at the Council of Europe (1999 – 2012). He is the author of the first Georgian language textbook in International Law (1967), as well as more than 150 works published in Georgian, Russian, English, German, and Spanish languages, including his prominent work - “The Role and Place of Imperative Norms (Jus Cogens) in International Law” (1981).

The theoretical basis of Professor Alexidze’s knowledge and attention to historical facts have laid ground for international condemnation of aggressive separatism ideology on the international arena.

Prof. Alexidze's writings, while indicating the factual circumstances, providing the comprehensive international legal analysis and qualification on the revealed

facts of the ethnic cleansing/genocide policy conducted in the territory of Abkhazia, Georgia, and asserting on the importance of bringing perpetrators to justice, become a bedrock for the OSCE and CIS Heads of States Summit final documents.. His scientific, legal and political assessments of the 2008 Russia's war on Georgia, including the comprehensive legal analysis and critique of the so-called "Tagliavini's Report", is invaluable.

Since 1970, Professor Aleksidze delivered lectures on the persisting problems of international law at famous scientific and educational institutions, including the Emory and Boston Universities (the United States); the Humboldt University (Germany); the Hague Academy of International Law; the State Universities of Kiev, Azerbaijan and Armenia; the Academy of Human Rights (Greece); and the State University of Latvia.

Professor Levan Aleksidze has left an indelible mark in the memory of many generations. International Law Institute is proud to continue his legacy.

IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)



Established in Malta in 1988 under an agreement concluded between the IMO and the Government of Malta, IMLI started its first programme in 1989. Its main purpose was, and remains, to train officers, principally from developing countries, in international maritime law. Over the last three decades, IMLI's work has contributed to the establishment of a cadre of experts in international maritime law who are able to prepare, review and advise on the implementation of maritime laws and regulations.

The mission of the IMO International Maritime Law Institute is to enhance capacity-building in all States, particularly developing States, to contribute to the fulfilment of the IMO objectives thereby promoting safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping through cooperation.

Since its inception, through its research and other appropriate post-graduate programmes and courses, the Institute has been spearheading the dissemination of knowledge and expertise in international maritime law, with special reference to IMO regulations and procedures for the safety, security and efficiency of shipping, prevention of marine pollution from ships, and protection of life at sea.

Bearing in mind that States need to have appropriate legal infrastructure which incorporates the provisions of the international instruments into national law and which has well-established procedures for implementing and enforcing the requirements of the applicable law in all relevant situations, IMLI also offers unique training and guided practice in the techniques of maritime legislation drafting. Through intensive courses and practical exercises, IMLI students are exposed to the modus operandi and methods of implementation of IMO conventions into national law and are adequately trained to develop the relevant primary legislation (codes, statutes, etc.) as well as the necessary subsidiary legislation (regulations and rules) for their application into domestic legislation.

Fully aware of the fact that ocean governance is critical to establish the safe and sustainable use of the oceans, IMLI has also enhanced its efforts to assist governments with developing the cadre of specialists necessary to shape national policies designed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals encapsulated in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a more effective global ocean governance in the interest of present and future generations.

Since its inception in 1988, IMLI has trained close to 1,100 maritime experts from 145 States who are at the forefront in the codification and progressive development of international maritime law and are actively contributing to their countries' development.

International Law Institute (ILI)

Faculty of Law, Tbilisi State University



International Law Institute (ILI) is a structural scientific-research unit operating within the Faculty of Law, Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University (TSU).

Established in 1918 as the first European-style in Georgia and the whole South Caucasus, TSU has been creating local intellectual workforce and paving way for human development.

Nowadays TSU is the biggest university in Georgia with more than 22,000 students and over 215 accredited academic programs on all levels of tertiary education, providing excellent ground for interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary teaching, learning and research, international academic and scientific collaboration, currently implementing more than 150 international projects.

The Faculty of Law is one of the largest units within the premises of the TSU with overall enrollment of approximately 3900 students at BA, MA, and PhD levels. Under the umbrella of the Law Faculty, ILI offers special programs in International Law awarding qualifications of “Bachelor of International Law” and “Master of International Law”.

As the first and leading Institution for teaching International Law in the region, ILI has served as the model for promotion of human rights, equality, multiculturalism and diversity thought numerous educational/research activities.

ILI provides study and research of various areas of public international law (PIL), including humanitarian law, International and European law of human rights with particular focus on minority rights protection, national and international anti-discrimination mechanisms; international criminal law; refugee and migration law; law of the sea; environmental law; air and space law; cyber security law, etc.

ILI has successful record of organizing different extracurricular and advocacy activities of national, regional and international coverage. It successfully cooperates with state and non-state institutions, international organizations operating in Georgia as well as a number of foreign higher educational institutions.

With the support of the TEMPUS Programme, in 2011, Migration Centre was established within ILI. Since 2020, ILI is the Jean Monnet chair-holder raising awareness on the benefits of EU Associate Membership, with particular focus on human dimension of EU - Georgia cooperation.

Batumi State Maritime Academy (BSMA)



Maritime education in Batumi is more than seven decades old. In the 20s of the last century, evening naval courses were opened in the port of Batumi, on the basis of which the Batumi Naval Technical School was established in 1929. On March 5, 1944, by the decision of the State Committee of Defense of the USSR, the Batumi Naval Academy was established on the basis of the Naval Technical School.

During the half-century of its existence, the Batumi Naval Academy played a major role in the development of maritime affairs, not only in Georgia, but throughout the Soviet Union. The school has trained up to 5,000 highly qualified specialists to work in the Navy. Its graduates still successfully work on ocean-going ships under the flags of Georgia and many countries around the world.

On the basis of this authoritative naval academy with great traditions, in the most difficult period of our country's history, by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Georgia, Batumi Higher Naval Academy was established in 1992, which also received the status of Treasury Enterprise - Batumi State Maritime Academy (BSMA).

In 2004, a large-scale reform of the entire education system began in Georgia. On April 25, 2005, the status of the Academy was defined as a legal entity under public law, and by the Resolution of the Government of Georgia of October 9, 2009, the current status, type and name of the Maritime Academy were determined: Legal Entity of Public Law - Teaching University - Batumi State Maritime Academy.

Batumi State Maritime Academy offers students the opportunity to receive education in a wide range of maritime industry. Graduates of Batumi State Maritime Academy have the opportunity to hold command positions in the crews of maritime merchant ships, maritime crewing companies and other

public or private services whose activities are related to the service, control and management of maritime transport.

The Academy promotes the development of various maritime institutions located in the Black Sea coast of Georgia. The proximity to the ports of Batumi, Poti and Kulevi and the Supsa terminal creates good conditions for the students of the academy to receive full-fledged internships at the base of the mentioned ports, at the same time the academy provides them with qualified staff.



Joint conference
Modern International Maritime Law –
exploring the interplay between international and national norms

In memoriam of an honourable academician, Professor Levan Alexidze, the founder of international law studies in Georgia

September 25, 2023

Tbilisi, Georgia

PROGRAMME

25 September, Monday

14.00 – 14.30 **Registration**

14.30 – 15.00 **Opening Ceremony**

Location

Museum Hall (2nd floor)
1st Building, TSU

- **Vice-Rector of Tbilisi State University**
- **Dr. Tamar Zarandia**, Dean, Faculty of Law, TSU
- **Khatuna Totladze**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
- **Grigol Giorgadze**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Defence of Georgia (TBC)
- **Murtaz Devadze**, Rector, Batumi State Maritime Academy

14.30 – 15.00 **Plenary Session I**

Location

Museum Hall (2nd floor)
1st Building, TSU

Chair - Prof. Dr. I. Kurdadze, Director of ILI, TSU

Speakers:

- **Prof. Dr. Norman A. Martinez Gutierrez** (International Maritime Law Institute, Director) – Keynote Speaker: The Role of Capacity-Building in the Effective Implementation of International Instruments
- **Dr. Eka Siradze** (Tbilisi State University, Associated Professor): Impact of MLC 2006 on the protection of the seafarers' social-labor rights in the countries with open register



- **Mr. Ivane Abashidze** (IMO legal Committee, Vice Chair): Marine Environment Protection and International Legal Standards under the Auspices of IMO: An Example of the MARPOL Convention and Global Limitation of Liability Regime

15.50 – 16.00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17.00

Plenary Session II

Location
Museum Hall (2nd floor)
1st Building, TSU

Chair - Prof. Dr. Konstantin Korkelia, TSU, ILI
Speakers:

- **Ms. Elda Kazara-Bejia** (International Maritime Law Institute, Senior Lecturer / Head of Administration): Safety of Domestic Ferries: Drafting National Legislation Guided by International Model Regulations
- **Dr. Mariam Kevlishvili** (Tbilisi State University, Assistant Professor): International Standards of protection of seafarers as labor migrants
- **Mr. Nikoloz Melkadze** (LEPL Defence Institution Building School, Acting Director): Montreux Convention: Product of Power Balance in the Black Sea
- **Ms. Mary Chakvetadze** (Former Alternate Permanent Representative of Georgia to the International Maritime Organization): Navigating the Depths: Understanding the Role, Legal Framework, and Political and Economic Significance of Underwater Pipelines and Cables

17:00 – 17.15

Closing Remarks

Prof. Dr. David Pataraiia, TSU, ILI

Special Guests

Dr. Norman A. Martínez Gutiérrez , Director, IMLI



Professor Martínez read law at the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) and has been lecturing in international law and maritime law more than 25 years. In 1997 he was engaged by the Honduran General Directorate of the Merchant Marine where he occupied different posts. In 1998 he obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M.) Degree with Distinction from IMLI, where his research on delimitation of maritime boundaries was awarded the IMO Secretary-General's Prize for Best Dissertation. In 1999 he joined the Faculty of IMLI, where he has been the most Senior Officer after the Director for over 10 years. In 2005 he was admitted as an Advocate to the Honduran Lawyers' Bar Association and in 2010 he was awarded by IMLI the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in International Maritime Law cum laude.

In 2019, upon the recommendation of Professor Attard and following arigorous assessment by two eminent independent assessors, namely The Right Honorable Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, K.G. (former President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom) and Professor Thomas J.Schoenbaum, JD, PhD (Shefelman Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Washington School of Law), the IMO Secretary-General conferred upon him the Title of Full Professor of International Maritime Law.

Professor Martínez has acted as an international maritime law consultant since the year 2000 and has drafted legislation for governments in several areas of maritime law. He joined the International Maritime Organization's Roster of

Special Guests

Experts of the Food and Agriculture Organization in 2018 and has been engaged by the Organization in the capacity of Consultant as a Fisheries Insurance Legal Expert and International Fisheries Policy and Legal Expert since 2019. Professor Martinez has also advised several international clients and Maltese State-owned companies (Sea Malta Company Ltd. and Enemalta PLC) in several cases heard by courts in Bangladesh, London, Malta, Marseilles, Singapore, and St. Kitts & Nevis.

Professor Martínez is the Editor of the book series “IMLI Studies in International Maritime Law” published by Routledge, and is also a member of the Editorial Board of Benedict’s Maritime Bulletin. He has published numerous articles in prestigious law journals around the world and is a frequent speaker at international conferences and courses.

In 2011 the Government of Honduras presented him with a Diploma of Recognition for steadfast contributions to the international maritime community and in particular to the promotion of the good name of the Republic of Honduras.

Special Guests

Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja



Ms. Elda Kazara-Belja read law at the University of Athens, Greece.

In 2005, Ms. Kazara-Belja was employed as a Junior Officer in the Maritime Transport Department of the Albanian Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecommunication. Within a short period of time, she was promoted as a Senior Officer in the same department dealing mainly with the drafting of national mariti-

-me legislation and the adoption of international maritime conventions.

During that period Ms. Kazara-Belja participated actively in a joint training programme between the Hellenic Coastguard and different governmental departments of Albania. The main focus of the trainings was search and rescue operations, salvage operations, protection of the marine environment etc.

Ms. Kazara-Belja obtained a Master's Degree in International Maritime Law (with distinction) at the IMO International Maritime Law Institute. During the graduation ceremony Ms. Kazara-Belja was awarded the Sasakawa Prize for the Best Performing Nippon Foundation Scholar.

In August 2008 Ms. Kazara-Belja joined the Institute as an Assistant Lecturer in International Maritime Law. In 2010, Ms. Kazara-Belja was promoted as Lecturer in International Maritime Law. In 2019, she was appointed a Senior Lecturer in International Maritime Law.

Special Guests

She lectures, inter alia, in Law of the Sea, International Trade Law, Carriage of Goods by Sea, Proprietary Interests in Ships, Law of Salvage, General Average, Law of Maritime Safety, Law of Marine Insurance, Enforcement of Maritime Claims and Maritime Legislation Drafting.

She has been a visiting lecturer at the International Ocean Institute (IOI) and University of Malta and has acted as an examiner for the Faculty of Laws, University of Malta. She has also participated in several international conferences and workshops where she has delivered presentations on issues of law of the sea, shipping law, marine environmental law, and migration at sea. Ms. Kazara-Belja joined the International Maritime Organization's Roster of Experts in 2012 and the FAO's Roster of Experts in 2018.

Ms. Kazara-Belja is a contributor and co-editor of the Second Volume of The IMLI Manual in International Maritime Law. She has published chapter in books and articles in peer reviewed journals.

In addition to her academic position, Ms. Kazara-Belja is also the Head of Administration of the Institute.

Speakers & Chairs

Dr. Irine Kurdadze



Professor Irine Kurdadze has been working at the Tbilisi State University since 1997 and teaching different International Law subjects in both Bachelor and Master programs. At first she worked as an assistant professor in the field of International law. In 2004 she was elected as an Associate Professor and in November 2012 as a full Professor of International Law at

the Institute of International Law, Department of Law. In 2017 she was elected as a member of the Academic Council - the supreme representative body of TSU for two terms.

Professor Kurdadze in different periods had initiated such theoretical and practical courses for both undergraduate and post-graduate students as “The Role of the International Organizations and TNC in the modern globalizing world” (BA); “The legal influence of International Law on Georgian legislation” (MA); “Ethnic and Religious Minorities Rights standards under International universal and regional (European) Standards”. Since 2021 she has led Bachelor and Master programs in International Law at TSU.

Professor Kurdadze is an author of a variety of academic works in International Law focusing on the issues of correlation of International Law (including regional -European- law) and domestic law. Professor Kurdadze widely contributes to the publications of the International Law Journal published by the International Law Institute of the Tbilisi State University. She is co-author of several books, among them first-ever published two Georgian language dictionary reference books, produced by the team of the Institute of International Law under supervision of Prof. Levan Alexidze.

Speakers & Chairs

In 2004 Professor Kurdadze was elected as a Member of the Parliament of Georgia for 4 years. As an MP she served as deputy chair of Foreign Relation Committee. One of the main directions of her work in the Committee was examination of the level of harmonization of Georgian Legislation with EU Law. She was also a substitute-member of the Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe.

From 2009 till October 2012 Professor Kurdadze served as the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia. In that position she was actively involved in cooperation related to Education issues with the EU delegation in Georgia.

In 2019 she was elected as Director of the International Law Institute, TSU.

Since 2020 Prof. Kurdadze is Jean Monnet Chair holder at TSU.

Speakers & Chairs

Dr. Konstantin Korkelia



Dr. Konstantin Korkelia is professor of international human rights law at Tbilisi State University, Georgia.

He previously worked as the Ambassador of Georgia to Latvia and Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg), the Vice-Justice Minister of Georgia, and the Government Representative to the European Court of Human Rights. He received Master's degree cum laude from Leiden University, the Netherlands and

Doctoral degree from Tbilisi State University. He is a trainer and a consultant working for various international organizations and institutions such as the Council of Europe, EU, OSCE, GIZ, IRZ. Konstantin's interests include international law of human rights, European law of human rights, international treaty law and public international law. In 2020 Professor Korkelia was granted an award for Academic Excellence in Human Rights by the All the universities of Georgia. His recent publications include Human Rights Restrictions in Georgia During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Speakers & Chairs

Dr. David Patariaia



Dr. David Patariaia is a professor at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia. Professor Patariaia has been a practicing lawyer and held certain high-ranking positions in Georgia, inter alia, he served as a member of the State Council of Georgia, a commissioner in the Georgian National Communication Commission, the Parliamentary Secretary of the President of Georgia and the Head of the Administration of the President of Georgia.

Together with other professors and colleagues Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, he is the co-author of the Dictionary of Modern International Law, the co-author and editor of the book international law: Selected Issues (2021), also co-editor of the Journal of International Law (which is published since 1996 mostly on a yearly basis). He is the author of many scientific articles and the following books:

- David Patariaia, *State Succession in International Law and Georgia*, Saar, 2002;
- David Patariaia, *International Relations: Discipline and Theory*, Tbilisi, Arete, 2015;
- David Patariaia, *Rechtsnachfolge im Völkerrecht, Dismembration der Sowjetunion und Georgien*, Jus Press, 2016;
- David Patariaia, *Traditional Theoretical Approaches in International Relations*, Jus Press, 2017;
- David Patariaia, *International Law: Text, Cases and Materials*, Routledge, 2021;
- David Patariaia, *Public International Law, Book I*, TSU Press, 2023

Speakers & Chairs

Dr. Eka Siradze



Dr. Eka Siradze is an Associate Professor of the Faculty of Law of the Iv. Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. She has more than 20 years of experience in teaching and scientific activities in international public law and international maritime law.

In 1993-2000, she worked at the International Law Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. She has directly participated in the process of concluding bilateral and a number of multilateral agreements of Georgia during that period. She was head of the legal department of the largest Georgian shipping company OSCO in 2000-2010.

In 2000 she graduated IMLI with LLM in International Maritime Law and completed her PhD studies in TSU. As a maritime law expert, since 2011 she has been participating in various projects implemented by the European Union, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), International Maritime Organization (IMO) and ICMPD in Georgia and abroad (among them, she has prepared reports on the implementation of association agreements by the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia with the European Union). Dr. Siradze provides expert-consulting services to the Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia. She is the co-author of the complex study "Development of the Maritime Sphere of Georgia" performed by the Chamber of Commerce of Georgia, as well as "Crisis Management Manual for Diplomats (rendering the assistance to Georgian citizens abroad)" (co-author with Mrs. Tamar Kikvidze) within the ICMPD sponsored project.

Speakers & Chairs

Dr. Siradze actively participates in local and international conferences and seasonal schools. She is the author of numerous publications in the maritime field.

In 2021 she was awarded the Medal of Honor by the President of Georgia for exceptional contribution to the development of the maritime field and maritime education.

Speakers & Chairs

Dr. Mariam Kevlishvili



Dr. Mariam Kevlishvili is assistant-professor of international law Intitute at law faculty at Tbilisi State University since 2004. She has gained PhD degree in international law with migration issues.

She was a researcher in Tempus projects: “Promoting Migration Studies in Higher Education/PROMIG” and “Migration and Higher Education Developing Skills and Capacity”. She was also coordinator-curator of the project “Building training and analytical capacities on migration in Moldova and Georgia”, internation-

-al Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and simultaneously was a researcher at the same organization.

She is leading the courses for Bachelor and Master students: “International Public Law”, “Introduction to Migration Law” and “European Commission against Racism and Intolerance and Georgia”.

She was speaker at international and national conferences, among them: “UN Based Global Approach to Migration and its Implication for Georgia’s Migration Policy”, ICMPD; “Migration Tendencies in Georgia”, ELSA Georgia; 61th International Study Congress AWR “Integration and Identity”, Webster University, Leiden, the Netherlands, etc.

She is author of several publications among which are: “Citizenship policies in Georgia and the European Union”, Vienna- Tbilisi, September/October 2011, ICMPD; “The Role of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) in Forming International Negative Stance towards the Fact of Massive Deportation of Georgian Migrants from Russian Federation”, “Journal of Intern-

Speakers & Chairs

-ational Law”, 2015 N2-2016 N1; “Legal Regulation of Migrants in the Perspective of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)”, Tbilisi, 2022 (monography).

Speakers & Chairs

Mr. Nikoloz Melkadze



Nikoloz Melkadze is a highly accomplished professional serving as the Acting Director of the Defence Institution Building School, a distinct legal entity operating under the Ministry of Defence of Georgia. Prior to assuming his current role, Nikoloz Melkadze held the position of Head of the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Center at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. Furthermore, his com-

-mendable background includes extensive work in the field of Human Rights. background includes extensive work in the field of Human Rights.

As an academic scholar, Nikoloz Melkadze is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in a joint doctorate program between Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and the University of Groningen, Kingdom of the Netherlands. He has also earned a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in International Law and Law of International Organisations from the prestigious University of Groningen. His educational journey began with a Bachelor's degree in International Law from Tbilisi State University, where he laid the foundation for his remarkable career. Additionally, he expanded his horizons through a year-long exchange program, studying in both Vilnius (Lithuania) and Ohio (US).

Nikoloz Melkadze's pursuit of knowledge extends beyond academia, as evidenced by his acquisition of Project Management and CIPD Learning and Development certificates. These certifications reflect his dedication to enhancing his skills and expertise in order to effectively lead and manage com-

Speakers & Chairs

-plex projects.

Acknowledged as an authority in his field, Nikoloz Melkadze has been invited to serve as a lecturer at various Georgian universities for the past six years. In this capacity, he has delivered courses on subjects such as International Law, International Maritime Law, International Diplomatic Law, and International Organizations.

Speakers & Chairs

Mr. Ivane Abashidze



Mr. Ivane Abashidze is a Deputy CEO of Columbia Shipmanagement Georgia since June, 2023. Before moving into a private sector, MR Abashidze worked as a Deputy Director of Maritime Transport Agency of Georgia, since 2018. He worked at MTA for more then 10 years, since 2011.

Mr. Abashidze is currently a vice chair of Legal Committee of International Maritime Organization (IMO), where he was voted in for the position by 175 member States. Mr. Ivane Abashidze serves in this position for two consecutive terms since 2021. He further leads various legal working groups & correspondence groups at IMO comprised of member States, in particular, Chair of THE WORKING GROUP ON LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION at International Maritime Organization; Chair of the Intersessional Group - CLAIMS MANUAL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CIVIL LIABILITY FOR BUNKER OIL POLLUTION DAMAGE at International Maritime Organization; Chair of the Intersessional Group - DEVELOPMENT OF UNIFIED INTERPRETATION (UI) ON THE TEST FOR BREAKING THE OWNER'S RIGHT TO LIMIT LIABILITY UNDER THE IMO CONVENTIONS at International Maritime Organization. Since 2021 he is the Member of the Authorization Council for the Higher Educational Institutions, under the Prime Minister of Georgia in between 2018-2020 Mr. Abashidze Serves as the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee, International Mobile Satellite Organization.

Speakers & Chairs

He is a graduate of IMO International Maritime Law Institute with the degree of Master of Laws in International Maritime Law (with distinction). He is also a graduate of Tbilisi State University, with the Bachelors Degree in Law. He has authored 1 book “Maritime Safety & Classification Society - A Georgian Prospective.”

Speakers & Chairs

Ms. Mary Chakvetadze



Mary Chakvetadze is a driven and well-connected external relations professional and international law specialist (PhD student, MA with distinctions in General International at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia), with over 10 years of experience in diplomatic service of Georgia and working with international organizations.

Having started as an intern in 2009 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Mary Chakvetadze successfully served on various diplomatic posts combining the responsibilities of promoting bilateral relations between Georgia and its neighbouring countries (Azerbaijan, Moldova, and Ukraine) and simultaneously leading political and sectoral cooperation within the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development - GUAM. She worked on a number of policy papers and the drafting of political documents, including governments' joint statements, declarations, communiques, and UN GA resolutions.

In 2018-2022, Mary Chakvetadze was appointed at the Embassy of Georgia to the UK as the Counsellor and Alternate Permanent Representative of Georgia to the International Maritime Organization (IMO). On this post, Mary successfully led economic, commercial and maritime affairs.

She was a focal point and member of the national delegation to negotiations on establishing the first ever bilateral FTA between Georgia and the UK, signed in

Speakers & Chairs

2019 in London. At the IMO, Mary strongly advocated gender equality and women's empowerment within the maritime and shipping industries and co-initiated and co-drafted the first ever IMO Assembly Resolution A.1147(31) on respective issue. She negotiated new partnerships with over 15 countries to promote new employment opportunities for Georgian seafarers abroad.

In 2022-2023, Mary continued contributing to the development of Georgia's maritime sector, particularly the internationalisation of maritime education, training, and research, in her capacity as the Manager for International Relations and Cooperation with Partners at Batumi State Maritime Academy, Georgia's leading maritime higher education institution.

Mary Chakvetadze has completed various professional and academic training programmes at the leading diplomatic institutions in Austria, Estonia, Germany, Malta, the Netherlands, and Poland.

Notes

Notes

