



“The cooperation between the Troika: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs-UNITAR-UNDP Asmara for preparing the program of the course was excellent. The trainers were high experienced and qualified people. They have delivered their task at high level. We would like to thank the UNITAR group for the job well done”.

H.E. Negassi Sengal Ghebregzghi, Ambassador,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Eritrea

Objective 6:

Advancing human security

Human security deals with the “downside risks” of protecting people’s livelihoods in situations of economic decline, conflicts and disasters. It addresses the issue of how vulnerable populations will be affected by these downturn changes and it identifies where improvements in their condition can be made.

Protecting civilians in conflict and post-conflict situations

UNITAR prepares civilian, military and police personnel to serve in peace operations and to pioneer international training standards and advance best practices for peacekeeping training.



Key achievements

- n Restructuring of peacekeeping activities, re-invigorated by the establishment of an advisory board made of high-level personalities;
- n A high-level conference in held at the UK conference centre in Wilton Park, which brought together academia, practitioners and the UN to discuss the pressing issue of the protection of civilians in peace operations.

Activities

UNITAR has conducted needs assessments in order to define new strategic directions for peacekeeping training activities. It has also developed methodologies for more effective peacekeeping training, including devising mechanisms to strengthen the protection of civilians in field missions worldwide.

UNITAR has invited the Open University UK – the major e-learning University in Europe – to collaborate on the development of e-learning courses on human security.

“I think that UNITAR can play a great role in preparing peacekeepers for the sort of activities they will be required to undertake once deployed, and in fostering dialogue and coordination among different actors”.

Ltd Gal. Satish Nambiar Member of the UNITAR Peacekeeping Advisory Board



“On behalf of the Diplomatic Academy of Peru, I am very pleased to express our gratitude to UNITAR for the remarkable effort done in organizing the course «Current Trends in New International Law”, which contributed to build awareness, respect and promotion of international law, democracy and human rights in our region”.

José Antonio Meier, Embajador, Rector de la Academia del Perú, Perú

Promoting international law and strengthening capacities of Member States to meet international legal obligations

With a view to enhancing the respect for and fostering better application of international law UNITAR promotes a wider appreciation and better knowledge of international law among practitioners.

Key achievements

- n 2,200 participants trained annually with an combined outreach to 160 Member States;
- n 95 per cent of participants to the e-learning course and 70 per cent of participants to the Diploma Course on International Environmental Law come from developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
- n 12 sessions of the Distance Diploma Course in International Environmental Law held in collaboration with partners such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

- n 6 national and regional tailor-made training activities designed in response to Member States specific needs and priorities;
- n 6 sessions of the e-learning course in International Environmental Law held each year;
- n Yearly comprehensive and intensive 6-week fellowship programmes conducted in cooperation with the International Court of Justice of The Hague.

Activities

Through these activities, UNITAR updates and deepens participants' knowledge in a variety of international law related topics.

UNITAR strengthens Member States' capacity to ensure the adequate implementation of international legal instruments and their application at the national level, thus meeting their international legal obligations.

Training activities are offered in three official UN languages – English, French and Spanish and a complete CD-ROM compilation of legal documents on international environmental law is made available.

Best final essays by the participants to the Diploma Course in International Law are published in the Journal of Law, Environment and Development.



“In my long diplomatic and judicial experience, I am not aware of any other course, at the present time that so encapsulates the latest developments in modern international law and diplomacy, and offers these to young professionals from all regions of the world. The course is therefore unique in that sense”.

Hon. Abdul G. Koroma, Judge, International Court of Justice



“I am writing to express my deep appreciation and admiration for the series of training seminars you have organized over the last several years for indigenous leaders. I am quite pleased that UNITAR has made the effort to develop this unique and important program, and am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of it”.

James Anaya, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

Engaging indigenous people's representatives in conflict prevention and peacemaking

UNITAR strives to strengthen the capacities of indigenous peoples' representatives in the prevention and resolution of conflict, and the promotion and protection of their rights.

Key achievements

- n Indigenous graduates from UNITAR courses, including two representatives at the highest levels, were engaged in the negotiations which led to the historic achievement of the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- n Two alumni of the UNITAR training programme have served or been nominated as expert Members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the highest level body in the UN to advise on improving the conditions of the world's 370 million indigenous people;
- n 60 indigenous representatives from Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia participated in regional training activities to enhance the conflict prevention capacities of indigenous peoples' representatives in the Pacific.



Activities

Training activities established at the request of indigenous peoples' representatives and based on recommendations by UN Special Rapporteurs that indigenous people's abilities to engage in negotiation and dialogue needed support, are conducted at international and regional levels for the Americas, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

The UNITAR programme is unique in providing training for indigenous representatives in conflict analysis, negotiation and conflict transformation, coupled with information on UN and regional human rights mechanisms for the promotion and protection of their rights.

Senior indigenous experts including Permanent Forum Members and UN Special Rapporteurs serve as resource persons for the programme. Indigenous resource persons have also included a former Foreign Minister, a Councilor in a home rule government, a Minister and other senior leaders and practitioners in academia, the private sector and civil society.



The Training Terminology Wiki

The use of a wiki as a platform to define and list training terminology terms is aligned with UNITAR's recent efforts to adopt social media tools in order to enhance collaboration, contribution and sharing within and outside the Institute.

The training terminology site, a collective effort involving various stakeholders, was originally developed to standardize the terms used in UNITAR's training activities and to harmonize communication both within and outside the organization. The positive impact that this sort of systematic

terminology policy can provide in support of information and educational strategies has already been internationally recognized in UNESCO's Guidelines for Terminology Policies.

The research conducted to compile the list of training terminology terms led to the conception of an information resource related to the training field which can be used by UNITAR staff in particular and training professionals in general. Each term in the wiki is the result of meticulous research from several sources, making it a rich and reliable point of reference on diverse aspects of training design. Terms that are integral to the training field are also supplemented with toolkits and job aids that serve as detailed guidelines.