

Knowledge to lead

# United Nations Institute for Training and Research

[www.unitar.org](http://www.unitar.org)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is the principal training Institute of the United Nations system. The Institute provides training and capacity development to assist mainly developing countries in meeting the challenges of the 21st century in the thematic areas of Peace, Security and Diplomacy; Environment and Climate Change; New Technology for Development and Humanitarian Assistance; and Governance.



**unitar**

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# “50 More Years of Human Empowerment”

## Overview

For the past 50 years, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has been working to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations by delivering training and capacity development in the thematic areas of **Peace, Security and Diplomacy; Environment and Climate Change; New Technology for Development and Humanitarian Assistance; and Governance**.

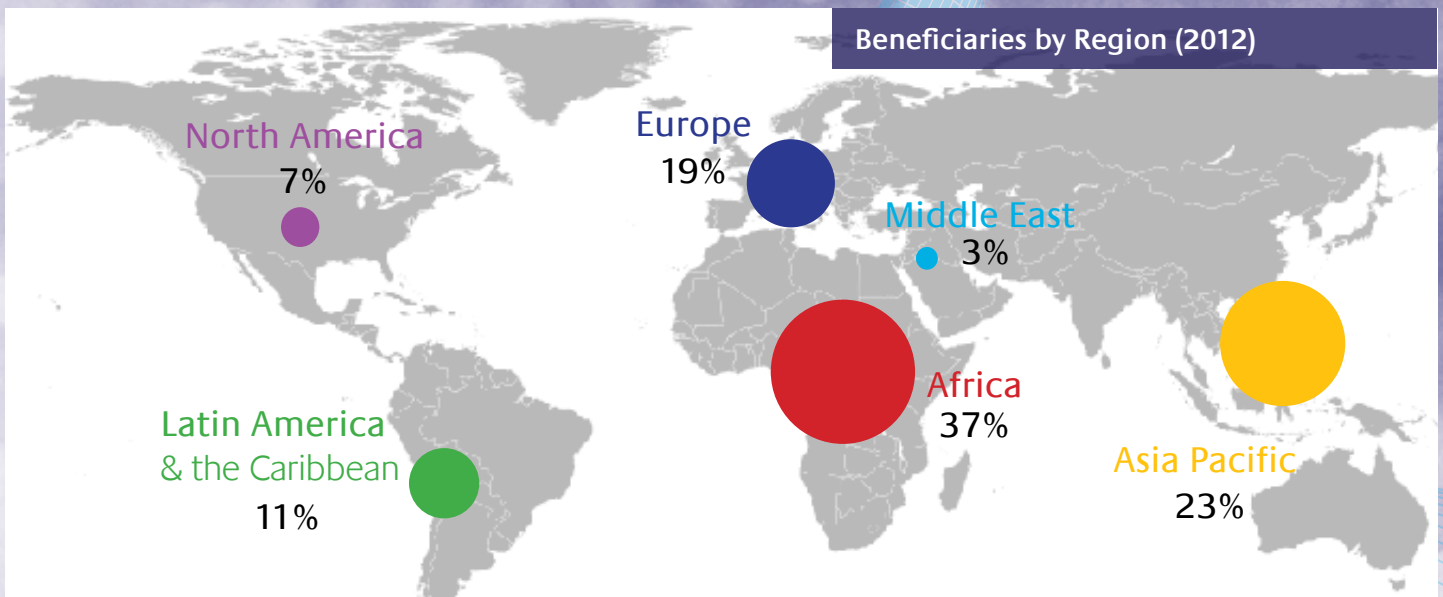
Our mission is to enhance the impact of the United Nations by building the capacities of beneficiaries, who mainly come from developing countries, which face challenges related to the thematic areas of our work. Our training targets to two key groups of beneficiaries: the **delegates to the UN and others** who develop intergovernmental agreements establishing global norms, policies, and programmes, and the **key national change agents** who turn the global agreements into action at the national level.

Global norms, policies, and programmes have impacts on virtually every aspect of our lives. These norms are created by the delegates representing the United Nations Member States through intergovernmental dialogue and negotiation. However, not all delegations have equal capacity to participate in dialogue on important substantive issues. UNITAR’s work aims to promote a **“level playing field”** by developing knowledge, skills, awareness on substantive issues for delegates who are involved in negotiating agreements in UN intergovernmental decision making bodies.

At the national level, once the UN has agreed to a new norm, policy, or programme, the key national actors need to translate this into the appropriate national strategy. To support them in doing this, we provide training at the national level to key actors both on soft skills and in substantive areas to understand the issues at hand. To carry out these trainings, both for delegates and for key national actors, we partner with the part of the UN system that has the substantive expertise.

UNITAR’s strengths derive from its expertise on **how best to deliver training, how best to capture and retain knowledge, and how best to build upon it**. UNITAR is therefore concentrating on the means of delivering adult training and professional learning; **how to monitor and evaluate their impact on behaviour; and how to capitalize on capacity development**. In its effort to improve the quality and to expand the outreach of its training offers, it builds on **strategic partnerships** with other UN entities, international organizations, renowned academic institutions and the private sector. To have the greatest impacts with available resources, UNITAR works with national institutions to train trainers. In addition, UNITAR now offers almost a half of its training courses through e-Learning. It is UNITAR’s goal to be a centre of excellence on training, recognized within and outside the UN system for standard setting methodologies, high quality training, and research capacity on knowledge systems.

## Beneficiaries by Region (2012)



## Beneficiaries

UNITAR’s work is centred around the beneficiaries we serve. We’ve shaped specialized programmes within our thematic areas, all designed with specific training activities, aimed to meet the needs of our beneficiaries. We strive to enhance the capacities of two key sets of stakeholders, mainly from developing countries:

- The **delegates to the UN** who develop intergovernmental agreements establishing global norms, policies, and programmes
- The **key national change agents** who turn the global agreements into action

UNITAR reached out to **27,387 beneficiaries** in 2012. More than one third of them were from Africa (37 %), followed by Asia and Pacific (23 %) and the Latin American and Caribbean countries (11 %). Europe and North America accounted for 19 and 7 % of beneficiaries, respectively.

## Value of UNITAR Courses

In 2012, 7,759 respondents from 225 of the Institute's 259 learning events (representing an 87 % response rate) assessed their UNITAR learning experience. Based on data collected, respondents agreed (4 ranking) or strongly agreed (5 ranking) that

- the **information presented was new (71%)**
- the content was **relevant to their job (89%)**
- it was likely they would **use the information (93%)**
- the event was considered to be **overall useful (95%)**

## Quality Assurance

UNITAR attaches much importance to providing its beneficiaries with quality products and services.

All learning-related events are now assessed against a set of over a dozen standards prior to delivery in accordance with the Institute's **Quality Assurance Framework**. In addition to being an internal benchmark for quality, the framework is also a tool to facilitate certification with external quality schemes, such as the e-Learning programmes and institutions in international capacity building (ECBCheck) certification process.



## Thematic Areas

### Peace, Security and Diplomacy

The objectives of our training activities within this area include the strengthening of capacities of diplomats and other government officers in multilateral diplomacy, particularly in view of increasing performance in conferences and meetings convened at the UN and regional organizations; increasing the effectiveness of peace operations by improving the preparation of civilian, military, and police components of prospective missions; and developing more effective methods for settling disputes and preventing armed conflict by focusing on contemporary techniques of negotiation and mediation.

### Environment and Climate Change

Safeguarding the natural environment as a foundation for sustainable economic and social development creates unprecedented demands for learning and skills development. Working with a range of partners, UNITAR's environmental and climate related programmes develop individual and institutional capacities in developing countries to put in place a strong human resource base to address the global environmental sustainability challenge.

### New Technology for Development and Humanitarian Assistance

UNITAR's work in the area of new technology is focused on understanding the potential of technology for the work of the UN and the international community and working with partners at turning appropriate technologies into usable solutions helping the UN at large carry out its mandate. UNITAR is actively engaged in exploring how new technology can enhance peace and security, humanitarian assistance, development planning, and the promotion of human rights.

### Governance

Effective use of resources for the welfare of people is relevant at all levels, especially at the national and local levels. We build the capacity of beneficiaries, including government officials, to improve performance in the sustainable management of resources and the provision of services.



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## Methodology and Delivery

We understand that different learning styles require different methodological approaches for effective learning to occur. UNITAR's training activities are customized to cater for the various ways its beneficiaries learn. To ensure we reach optimal outcomes of desired objectives and results, we create an environment that facilitates the learning process.

Each of our learning and training activities present a variety of learning resources blending core content, assignments, tasks, assessments, peer to peer collaboration, interactive activities, and mentoring. We incorporate participant interaction and hands-on activities.

Depending on the needs of our beneficiaries and the objectives of the training, activities are delivered in different formats: face-to-face at strategic locations all over the world, virtually, or blended, combining both.

To extend access to participants in developing countries, UNITAR offers an increasing number of courses through e-Learning. In 2012, e-Learning represented an important mode of training, with some **45% of training and training-related events** (and 80% of courses) now **delivered online**. All told, 60% of the Institute's learners are increasing awareness, developing knowledge and acquiring skills online.

## Governance, Leadership and Funding

UNITAR is an autonomous agency within the United Nations and is headed by an Executive Director and governed by a Board of Trustees, both of which are appointed by the UN Secretary-General. The Institute is financed entirely from voluntary contributions derived mainly from Member States, international and intergovernmental organizations, academia, foundations and the private sector.

## Office Locations and Contacts

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### Country Based Training Centres

Atlanta (United States of America)  
Curitiba (Brazil)  
Durban (South Africa)  
Jeju (South Korea)  
Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)  
Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso)  
Plock (Poland)  
Scotland (United Kingdom)  
Shanghai (China)  
Merida (Mexico)  
Algiers (Algeria)

## Online Resources and Social Network

UNITAR website ([www.unitar.org](http://www.unitar.org))  
Online course catalogue ([www.unitar.org/event](http://www.unitar.org/event))  
e-Learning platform ([www.learnatunitar.org](http://www.learnatunitar.org))  
Learning and training wiki ([www.click4it.org](http://www.click4it.org))  
Newsletter ([www.unitar.org/newsletter](http://www.unitar.org/newsletter))  
Facebook ([www.facebook.com/UNITARHQ](http://www.facebook.com/UNITARHQ))  
Twitter ([twitter.com/UNITAR](http://twitter.com/UNITAR))  
LinkedIn ([www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-institute-for-training-&-research---unitar/](http://www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-institute-for-training-&-research---unitar/))  
YouTube ([www.youtube.com/unitarhq](http://www.youtube.com/unitarhq))



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