

UNITAR at a Glance

The **United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)** is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations working in every region of the world. The Institute's mission is to develop the capacities to enhance global decision-making and to support country-level action for shaping a better future. UNITAR empowers individuals, governments and organizations through knowledge and learning to effectively overcome contemporary global challenges.

The Institute was established in 1963 by the UN Secretary-General, following a 1962 General Assembly resolution, for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in achieving the major objectives of the Organization through training and research.

Providing training and capacity development to assist mainly developing countries, UNITAR's vision is "A world in which knowledge-empowered people, institutions and organizations achieve results to overcome global challenges."

The work of UNITAR is organized under six broad programme areas: Capacity for the 2030 Agenda, Strengthening Multilateralism; Promoting Economic Development and Social Inclusion; Advancing Environmental Sustainability and Green Development; Promoting Sustainable Peace; and Improving Resilience and Humanitarian Assistance.

Key Facts

- Established in 1963
 - Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland
 - 2 out-posted offices in New York (USA) and in Hiroshima (Japan)
 - 1 project office in Port Harcourt (Nigeria)
 - 16 country-based affiliated training centres around the world (CIFAL Global Network)
 - 100 staff & collaborators
 - Over 40,000 beneficiaries in 2015, with 78% from developing countries
 - Close to 500 training and training related activities per year
 - 79% of respondents confirmed to have applied learned knowledge and/or skills
 - Total budget: 47.1 US\$ millions in 2016-2017
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Core Functions

Design and delivery of innovative training to address needs of individuals, organizations and institutions: UNITAR is specialized in short-term executive trainings for professionals, which are organized in the form of seminars, workshops and fellowship programmes. Training activities are delivered face-to-face, through e-Learning or blended, combining both.

Facilitation of knowledge and experience-sharing through networked and innovative processes: The Institute is entrusted with strategic responsibilities within the United Nations system in convening knowledge-sharing meetings, such as the seminar for Special and Personal Representatives and Envoys of the UN Secretary-General on peace operations, the One UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change, or the Global Migration Group.

Conducting of research on and piloting of innovative learning strategies, approaches and methodologies: UNITAR's research activities are focusing on knowledge systems and their practical applications. They support the Institute's training activities through the provision of learning environments adapted to respond to the needs of adult learners, thus facilitating the increase, efficiency and outreach of the Institute's capacity development activities.

Advising and support for governments, UN and other partners with technology-based knowledge-related services: The Institute delivers imagery analysis and satellite solutions, through its UNOSAT programme, to relief and development organizations within and outside the UN system to help make a difference in critical areas such as humanitarian relief, human security, strategic territorial and development planning.

Thematic Areas

To effectively address emerging capacity development needs, the UNITAR has established pools of training and train-the-trainers expertise in selected areas:

Capacity for the 2030 Agenda

UNITAR is stepping up its training initiative to support national governments and other stakeholders in building the capacities needed to mainstream, implement and review the 2030 Agenda. This new agenda will require all countries and stakeholders to work together to implement the global goals at national, regional and global levels in accordance with national realities and levels of capacity.

Strengthening Multilateralism

UNITAR supports Member States by transferring knowledge and know-how on the practices, policies and procedures of the multilateral working environment and the United Nations intergovernmental machinery as well as on contemporary diplomacy-related topics.

Promoting Economic Development and Social Inclusion

Many countries are poorly equipped to design, implement and monitor sound development strategies to achieve sustainable growth and to attain internationally agreed objectives. UNITAR strengthens countries' capacities to help them achieve their development priorities and translate multilateral norms and decisions into practice.

Advancing Environmental Sustainability and Green Development

In order to advance the objective of advancing environmental sustainability, UNITAR works with countries, organizations and UN partners to develop systematic and results-oriented learning strategies and plans.

Promoting Sustainable Peace

To contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflict and maintenance of international peace and security, UNITAR designs and conducts training programmes and seminars to deepen the knowledge, strengthen the skills and facilitate knowledge and experience-sharing among its beneficiaries.

Improving Resilience and Humanitarian Assistance

UNITAR is home to an advanced centre of excellence for satellite imagery and data analysis (UNOSAT). The institute researches also training methodologies and tools to facilitate access to information and knowledge about adult learning principles and instructional design approaches.

Quality Assurance

All learning-related events are 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.

UNITAR applies an integrated Result-Based Management (RBM) framework which aims, through regular monitoring and evaluation, at establishing a virtuous cycle where strategic planning and budgeting are better correlated with results and performance, thus increasing global management efficiency.

In order to improve the quality and to expand the outreach of its training offers, UNITAR develops strategic partnerships with other UN entities, international organizations, renowned academic institutions and the private sector.

Governance, Leadership and Funding

As an autonomous body within the United Nations, UNITAR is headed by an Executive Director and governed by a Board of Trustees, both of which are appointed by the UN Secretary-General. The Executive Director reports directly to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), one of the six organs of the United Nations. The Board of Trustees approves the work programme and the Biennial Programme Budget, and formulates principles and policies that govern the Institute's activities and operations. The Programme Budget is prepared for a two-year period and reviewed annually.

The Institute is financed entirely from voluntary contributions derived mainly from Member States, international and intergovernmental organizations, academia, foundations and the private sector.

Contact Information

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