The role of honorary consuls in times of crisis - UNITAR Virtual Forum on Capacity Development for Honorary Consuls

Multilateral Diplomacy

Deadline: 29 Jun 2020

Type: Conference
Location: Web Based
Date: 30 Jun 2020
Duration of event: 1 Days
Programme Area: Special event, Multilateral Diplomacy, International Law
Specific Target Audience: No
Website: https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/multilateral-diplomacy/our-port...
Price: No Fee
Event Focal Point Email: info.ilp@unitar.org

BACKGROUND

Many governments, in particular LDS and SIDS, are increasing reliant on honorary consuls to serve key functions to support state-state engagement, citizen support such as repatriation efforts and crisis intervention and foreign direct investment. In order to meet the need for a comprehensive and accessible training protocol UNITAR has developed two training programmes focused on international diplomatic law for honorary consuls that will provide participants with a full range of skills and understanding related to the post of Honorary Consul. Both programmes include insights into the obligations, privileges, and immunities of honorary consuls under international law as well as several practical skills necessary to effectively fulfill their duties, yet vary in their focus and duration:

- Executive Diploma on International Law for Honorary Consuls
- Diplomatic Law and Responsibilities for Honorary Consuls (short course)

Inputs and cooperation with member states and all stakeholders received during the virtual forum will contribute to the progressive development of this important executive diploma and encourage a stronger and more effective honorary consul corps through training and capacity development.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

UNITAR having developed the training programmes on international diplomatic law for honorary consuls kindly invites
key stakeholders to this virtual summit where attendees can gain practical insights regarding training and education programs for current, new and proposed members of the honorary consul corps.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The virtual forum will be divided into two one-hour sessions.

Session 1: Contemporary use of the Honorary Consuls Corp:

- The legal position of honorary consuls in Foreign Policy;
- The importance of Honorary consuls in supporting LDCs and SIDS;
- The historic development and the emerging trends of consular interaction;

Speaker: Foreign Minister/Head of State, UNITAR

Session 2: The Need for training, Education and capacity development:

- UNITAR’s role in training honorary consuls;
- The importance of targeting and capacity development for honorary consuls in a fast moving environment,
- Core skills for honorary consuls that need to be addressed;

Speaker: UNITAR, Honorary Consuls

METHODOLOGY

The virtual forum will take place on June 30th via the platform Zoom and will be streamed live. The virtual forum will be divided into 2 one hour session which each session comprising a 45-minute roundtable discussion with up to 5 high-level speakers including a moderator, followed by a 15-minute break. Participants will have the opportunity to submit their questions via the zoom chat function and the moderators will make a pre-selection before posing the question to the experts.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

The envisioned 150 to 200 attendees to the forum will be from a wide and diverse group of stakeholders including:

- Senior Government officials (Foreign Ministers, Ambassadors)
- UN officials (UNITAR, ILC, Protocol)
- Current Honorary Consuls and members of the diplomatic corps
- Diplomatic law and international law scholars
- Expert advisors to Governments (law firms, consultants)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The virtual forum will take place via Zoom.

Basic system requirements:

- Stable internet connection
- Speakers and a microphone
- A webcam or HD webcam
- Or, a HD cam or HD camcorder with video capture card

Please see further information about all technical requirements for participating in this e-workshop here: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-Requirements-for-PC-Mac-and-Linux