Multilateral Conferences and Diplomacy

Background
Governments and increasingly other actors such as international and non-governmental organizations use multilateral conferences as a means, and sometimes the only means, to achieve important policy objectives. As the number of conferences and meetings has risen considerably over the past twenty years, the number of government officers and other stakeholders involved in conference processes has also increased significantly. While diplomats remain at the centre of diplomacy, government officials assigned to ministries and agencies, as well as staff of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, are increasingly finding themselves in the role of the multilateral conference delegate.

Course Objectives
This online course will help participants enhance their performance as conference delegates, whether representing governments, organizations, NGOs, or other institutions. As a result, they will contribute to the overall efficiency and productiveness of conferences.

Learning Objectives
At the end of the course, participants should be able to:
- Identify how conferences unfold;
- Name the rules of procedure and their value in advancing delegate objectives;
- Explain the importance of informal consultations;
- Use appropriate language;
- Detect and incorporate other delegations’ strategies.

Target Audience
The course targets mid to senior-level government officers in ministries preparing for and/or taking part in conferences as well as staff of intergovernmental/nongovernmental organizations. It also targets entry-level and mid-career diplomats working in a multilateral setting. Private sector specialists and students whose work or studies are related to this subject are also encouraged to apply.

Methodology
The course will be conducted in English over a period of four weeks, each week consisting of a module focusing on a different topic. The course will be delivered via UNITAR’s e-Learning platform. This pedagogical tool will help the student meet the course’s learning objectives through a self-paced study routine supported by multimedia, optional and required readings, discussion forums, assessment quizzes, and a wealth of other information.

Registration and Course Fees
The course participation fee is 600 USD. Participants from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are eligible to apply for a fellowship. Please contact the Multilateral Diplomacy Programme for more details. Registration will be closed as soon as the course is full and your place will be secured once your payment is confirmed.

Information about dates, registration and fees are available on http://www.unitar.org/event/by/mdp.

Contact
For more information, please consult the UNITAR Multilateral Diplomacy Programme website or contact mdp-elearning@unitar.org.