2ND UNITAR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE
UN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM — 3-4 DECEMBER 2024

UN 2.0: Our Common Agenda and the Role of Higher Education in Conflict, Peace, and Development Research Conference

Authors Guidelines and Conference Proceedings

Section I: General Articles

General articles within the proceedings of the 2nd UNITAR International Research Conference- "UN 2.0: Our Common Agenda and the Role of Higher Education in Conflict, Peace, and Development" - are comprehensive research papers that explore policy or policy-related issues. Authors are encouraged to focus on topics that align with the conference's themes, such as the evolving role of higher education in addressing global challenges, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and sustainable development.

Submission Criteria

1. <u>Content</u>: Articles should present a thorough analysis of a research topic, emphasising policy implications and actionable recommendations.

2. <u>Language</u>: Articles must be written in clear and professional English, with both UK and US English accepted as long as consistency is maintained throughout the manuscript. Please note that UNITAR does not provide editing services prior to publication. Therefore, submissions that do not meet grammar and proofreading standards may be returned during the initial review process. Authors are strongly encouraged to ensure their manuscripts are thoroughly proofread and polished before submission.

3. <u>Formatting</u>: Authors must use the UNITAR Article Template to organise their submissions.

Structure of General Articles:

1. <u>Title</u>: Provide a concise and descriptive title that accurately reflects the content of the article.

2. <u>Abstract</u>: Limit 150 words.

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Include the following key elements on the <u>Abstract</u>:

- Research Background: Context and problem addressed.
- Methodology: Overview of the research approach.
- Core Contribution: Key findings or insights.
- Policy Implications: Summary of actionable insights or recommendations.
- Citations should not be included in the abstract.

1. <u>Keywords</u>: Include 3–5 keywords that describe the main subject of the article.

2. <u>Main Body</u>:

- <u>Introduction</u>: Provide a concise overview of the topic or issue under discussion and its contribution to the field, along with the research aims, objectives, and research question(s). Highlight the relevance and significance of the study in addressing the identified challenges or advancing understanding in the field.

- <u>Literature Review & Methodology</u>: Present a critical assessment of reviewed literature that supports the theoretical context of the research, and brief outline of the methodological framework.

- <u>Research Findings & Actionable Recommendations</u>: Present a clear and structured breakdown of the core research findings, emphasising their practical implications. Illustrate how these findings connect to specific, actionable steps that can drive meaningful change. Highlight the relevance of these actions in addressing identified challenges and advancing policy development or implementation.

- <u>Policy Implications</u>: Discuss the broader implications of the research findings in relation to existing policies or frameworks.

- <u>Conclusion</u>: Summarise the key findings of the research, focusing on their relevance and potential impact. Provide clear and actionable recommendations for policy development or improvement. Conclude by identifying areas for further research that could enhance understanding or address remaining gaps in the field.

3. <u>References</u>: Include 3–5 keywords that describe the main subject of the article.

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Section II: Policy Briefs

Policy briefs are concise, action-oriented documents designed to communicate research findings and recommendations to policymakers, practitioners, and the public. Within the context of the 2nd UNITAR International Research Conference - "UN 2.0: Our Common Agenda and the Role of Higher Education in Conflict, Peace, and Development" - these briefs should focus on actionable outcomes and practical solutions that address critical global challenges.

Authors are encouraged to highlight how their research contributes to understanding the role of higher education in fostering conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. Policy briefs should aim to translate complex research into clear, impactful recommendations that align with the conference themes and inform effective decision-making in these areas.

Note: Sections marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory and must be included in all submissions. Please ensure these sections are complete and adhere to the guidelines provided.

Front Matter:

1.*Title: Provide a clear and concise title that reflects the focus of the policy brief.

2.*Author List and Affiliations: List all contributing authors and their institutional affiliations.

3.*Abstract: Limit: 150 words. If applicable, divided into Background, Policy and implications, Recommendations, and Conclusions.

- Background: Outline the context aim and objectives of this brief in the context of the policies it addresses. Provide an overview of the issue and references to key studies or findings that establish the importance of the topic.

- Methodology/Research Overview: Briefly present the research methods or theoretical frameworks.

- Policy and Implications: Provide a comprehensive overview of the policy and the context of its implementation.

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- <u>Recommendations</u>: Provide a concise yet comprehensive summary of the proposed actions based on the research findings. Each recommendation should be clearly articulated, actionable, and aligned with the policy issues discussed.

- <u>Conclusions</u>: include discussion of the brief, and the implications for implementation.

4. *<u>Keywords</u>: Include 3–5 keywords that describe the main subject of the article.

Main Body

- *<u>Introduction</u>: Outline the aim and objectives of the brief in the context of the policies it addresses.Provide background on the policy issue and its significance, particularly in relation to the themes of conflict, peace, and development research.

- *<u>Literature Review & Methodology</u>: Include a critical assessment of relevant literature that supports the research context, particularly highlighting connections to higher education and peacebuilding. Provide a brief overview of the research methodology used.

- *<u>Research Findings & Actionable Recommendations</u>: Present the core findings in a structured format. Link findings directly to specific, actionable recommendations that address policy challenges, with a focus on sustainable solutions aligned with the conference themes.

- *<u>Policy Implications</u>: Discuss the relevance of findings to policy implementation, especially in the context of higher education's role in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. Highlight any potential barriers to implementation and suggest solutions for effective application.

- *<u>Conclusion</u>: Summarise the significance of the findings and their implications for policy. Offer recommendations for future research or policy development that align with the UN's Common Agenda.

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Back Matter

- *<u>Data Availability</u>: Include a statement specifying where the data supporting your findings can be accessed.

- *<u>Competing Interests</u>: Declare any competing interests or conflicts of interest.

- *<u>Grant Information</u>: Provide details of any grants that supported the research, including grant numbers.

- <u>Acknowledgements</u>: Recognise contributions from individuals or institutions not listed as authors.

- *<u>References</u>: Use the Harvard referencing style consistently.

- <u>Figures and Legends</u>: Integrate figures into the main text. Provide concise legends that explain abbreviations or acronyms.

- <u>Tables</u>: Include tables within the main text. Appendices are not accepted. Explain abbreviations or acronyms in the text or table legends.

Section III: Publication Pathways

In alignment with the goals of the 2nd UNITAR International Research Conference - UN 2.0: Our Common Agenda and the Role of Higher Education in Conflict, Peace, and Development -, we aim to provide inclusive and impactful publication pathways for all contributors. Selected papers may be considered for publication in a special issue or an edited volume, highlighting innovative research that addresses the intersection of higher education, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. Additionally, to broaden opportunities for authors, we may redirect some submissions to the Higher Education Compass Journal. Our approach aims at ensuring that a wide range of voices and perspectives are represented, fostering dialogue and contributing to global efforts to advance sustainable peace and development through higher education.

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Section IV: Submission and Review Process

- Full Paper Submission Deadline: <u>Friday, 10 January 2025</u>
- Notification of Acceptance: <u>Friday, 21 February 2025</u>

Submission Guidelines:
All submissions should follow the Submission and Review Process and be sent to:
Dr Jon-Hans Coetzer [jon-hans.coetzer@unitar.org]
and Dr Lucía Morales [lucia.morales@tudublin.ie],
copying Ms Alexandra Severino [alexandra.severino@unitar.org].

Submissions must adhere to the specified formatting, language, and word count guidelines outlined in this document.

Review Timeline:
- <u>Initial Screening</u>: Submissions will undergo an initial screening to ensure adherence to formatting and language requirements. Authors whose submissions do not meet these standards will be notified within 30 days of the submission deadline.

- <u>Peer Review</u>: Accepted submissions will undergo a peer review process to assess the quality and relevance of the research. Feedback will be provided within 30 days after the initial screening phase.

- <u>Revision and Resubmission</u>: Authors may be asked to revise and resubmit their papers based on reviewer feedback. Revised papers should be submitted within 20 days of receiving feedback.

- <u>Contact for Queries</u>: Dr Jon-Hans Coetzer [jon-hans.coetzer@unitar.org] and Dr Lucía Morales [lucia.morales@tudublin.ie], copying Ms Alexandra Severino [alexandra.severino@unitar.org].

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Conference Co-Organizing Members:

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- University of Derby
- Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (Universitatea Tehnică din Cluj)
- World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine
- Diplomats Without Borders
- National Institute of Administration (Instituto Nacional de Administração, I. P.)
- Irish Economic Association

Conference Committee Members:

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- Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin)
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