

Call for Abstracts for the Fourth UNITAR International Research Conference (4UIRC)

Educating for Futures | 18–19 November 2026 | UN House Brussels, Belgium and Online

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) invites the submission of abstracts for presentation at the conference and possibly inclusion, as a full paper, in a special edited volume of selected papers developed in connection with the Fourth UNITAR International Research Conference (4UIRC).

The special volume will be prepared by the 4UIRC Coordinating Team and supervised by the UNITAR Communications team for potential submission to the United Nations Publications Office and possible inclusion in the UN-iLibrary. The volume is conceived not as conference proceedings, but as a stand-alone scholarly publication that builds analytically on conference themes. Final publication remains subject to editorial review, institutional clearance, and United Nations publishing priorities.

1. Scope and Orientation:

Abstracts should propose original, analytically rigorous contributions that examine how education, training, and applied research can empower individuals and institutions to address current and future challenges in the domains of **human security, peace, and sustainable development**.

Proposed contributions should demonstrate clear relevance to:

- The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and United Nations mandates;
- The [UN Pact for the Future](#) and the Secretary-General's [New Agenda for Peace](#);
- The thematic priorities of the 4UIRC.

Submissions that function primarily as conference documentation (e.g. session summaries, speeches, or narrative reports of events) are not eligible for inclusion in the special volume.

2. Thematic Areas:

Interdisciplinary, comparative, and practice-oriented perspectives are particularly encouraged. Abstracts may address, inter alia, the following areas:

- Education for human security and social resilience
- Futures literacy and anticipatory governance
- Digital futures and ethical innovation
- Climate and ecological futures
- Youth leadership and intergenerational learning
- Education for impact and systems transformation

3. Abstract Requirements:

Abstracts should be 300–400 words in length and written in formal, neutral, and scholarly language consistent with UN publication standards. Submitted abstracts must:

- Clearly articulate the research question, analytical framework, or policy problem;
- Indicate the methodological or analytical approach;
- Demonstrate the originality and contribution of the proposed paper;
- Explain the relevance to UN priorities and SDG implementation;
- Indicate how the proposed paper moves beyond descriptive reporting.

4. Selection and Review Process:

- Abstracts will be reviewed by the 4UIRC Editorial Board under the coordination of UNITAR;
- Selection will be based on relevance to the volume's focus, analytical quality, originality, and potential contribution to policy and practice;
- Authors of selected abstracts will be invited to submit a full manuscript in accordance with detailed [Publishing Guidelines for the 4UIRC Special Volume](#).
- Submission of an abstract does not guarantee acceptance of a full paper.

5. Full Manuscript Expectations (for invited authors):

Authors invited to submit full manuscripts should note that:

- Manuscripts must constitute original, unpublished intellectual outputs;
- All papers will undergo double-blind peer review;
- Full manuscripts must comply with UN editorial standards regarding structure, citations, ethics, anonymisation, and responsible use of artificial intelligence (for more information read the [Publishing Guidelines for the 4UIRC Special Volume](#));
- Only manuscripts successfully completing peer review and institutional clearance may be considered for UN publication, including possible inclusion in the UN-iLibrary.

6. Editorial Oversight:

The special volume is developed under the coordination of the 4UIRC Editorial Coordination Team and the oversight of an independent Editorial Board. Editorial Board members submitting abstracts or manuscripts will be fully recused from all handling and decision-making related to their own submissions.

7. Guidelines for Submission:

Authors are invited to submit their abstract via the online form. Please ensure all guidelines are followed for a successful submission. Further details regarding timelines, formatting of full manuscripts, and subsequent stages will be provided to shortlisted authors.

7.1 Submission Method:

- Abstracts must be submitted online [via the official webform only](#).
- Email submissions will not be accepted.

7.2 Submission Deadline:

- Abstracts must be received by the specified deadline of **18 September 2026**.
- Late submissions will not be considered.

7.3 Limitations:

- You may submit up to three abstracts, regardless of whether you are the presenting author;
- You may serve as the presenting author on up to three abstracts;
- The presenting author must ensure that all co-authors are informed about and agree to the content of the abstract before submission;
- Abstracts previously submitted to another congress but not presented may be submitted to the 4UIRC;
- Novel data requirement:
 - All submitted abstracts must include new data;
 - Abstracts stating “data will be discussed in the presentation” will not be accepted;
 - Abstracts must be submitted in English.

7.4 Information Requested in the submission form:

Before submitting your abstract (<https://event.unitar.org/form/4uirc-call-for-abstracts>) please prepare the information below. At the end, click the 'Submit' to finalise your abstract submission. You may log in later to make changes to your abstract only until the submission deadline.

- **Presenting Author Details:**

- Full name.
- Email address.
- Professional Role.
- Phone Number.
- Country of Residence.
- Profile Photo (Colour, High Resolution).
- Short Bio (75-100 words).
- Affiliation Details
 - Institution / University
 - City / State (if applicable)
 - Country

- **Abstract Submission:**

- Title (Limited to 30 words and Symbols should be submitted as words)
- Author(s)
- Keywords
- Relevant Theme(s)
 - Human security and social resilience
 - Anticipation and Adaptive Leadership
 - Digital Futures and Ethical Innovation
 - Climate and Ecological Futures
 - Youth Leadership and Intergenerational Futures
 - Impact and Systems Transformation
- Abstract (300–400 words. Must include the following sections: Background and aims, Methods and approach, Results and discussion, Conclusions.)
- Graphics and Images (A maximum of three high resolution images per abstract)
- AI Usage Disclosure (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, Copilot, DALL·E, etc.)
 - If "Yes" (Please specify.)

- **Conference Contribution and Participation**

- Would you like to present the work submitted above at the conference?
 - If "Yes":
 - Format of Contribution
 - Academic / Practitioner / Applied Research Paper
 - Poster Presentation
 - Research Presentation
 - Panel Discussion/Roundtable
 - Title of presentation
 - Did you register already?
 - Yes, for ONLINE attendance
 - Yes, for IN-PERSON attendance
 - "Yes, online/in-person", please note that your registration will only be considered complete once payment has been made and proof of payment has been submitted according to the provided instructions. If you registered to attend in-person but have not yet paid, we strongly encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Space is limited, and places will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis for selected partners and presentations.
 - No
 - If you selected "No", please note that presenting at the conference requires registration. We strongly encourage all presenters, especially those presenting in person, to register as soon as possible, as the conference has gained significant traction and in-person spaces are limited.

- **Consent Declaration**

The editorial process is led by:

- **Editor-in-Chief:** Dr Jon-Hans Coetzer (Jon-Hans.COETZER@unitar.org)

And supported by:

- **Editorial Coordinator:** Alexandra Severino (Alexandra.SEVERINO@unitar.org)
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