



# UNITAR TRAINING PROGRAMME ON INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC LAW FOR HONORARY CONSULS

FIRST EDITION

2020



**unitar**

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UN PHOTO/ERICK BAJORNAS

# BACKGROUND



*In this day and age, a country's weight in the global arena is no longer measured in terms of its size, but rather in its capacity and willingness to effectively contribute to the search for solutions to the growing number of challenges of a transnational nature besetting humanity. Our honorary consuls and consuls general symbolize the global reach of the foreign policy of one of the smallest countries in the world.*

**Opening Remarks by Minister of Foreign Affairs Honorary Consuls Conference Savoy Hotel, 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

Honorary consuls have an important part to play in the international relations of many states, particularly smaller states and those unable to afford the extravagant costs associated with establishing conventional diplomatic and consular missions. While they cannot replace traditional diplomats, Honorary Consuls can facilitate multiple and deep engagements with political bodies, commercial organisations, nationals located abroad and citizens of receiving states. Their engagements can take place on multiple levels, including political, commercial and cultural. Especially in the recent Covid-19 crisis, Honorary Consuls played a vital role in citizen support, crisis intervention and repatriation. However, without a strong governance and reporting process, honorary consuls can become isolated and remote and their activities can be contrary to the interests of the sending state.

*UNITAR's new program to support education and training for the Honorary Consul will have a great impact on the functionality of the Honorary consul in contemporary foreign policy. I am pleased to be a part of this effort.*

**Amina Mohammed, Minister of Sport Kenya, 2020**

UNITAR has developed a new and comprehensive training programme focused on international diplomatic law for Honorary Consuls that will provide participants with the full range of skills and knowledge related to the post of Honorary Consul. The programme is made up of three components that are tailored to the specific target audience and include insights into the obligations, privileges, and immunities of honorary consuls under international law as well as several practical skills necessary to effectively fulfil their duties:

- Virtual Forum on the Role of Honorary Consuls in a time of crisis;
- Executive Diploma on International Law for Honorary Consuls;
- Diplomatic Law and Responsibilities for Honorary Consuls.

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.



# EXECUTIVE DIPLOMA



UN PHOTO/VIOLAINE MARTIN

## Methodology

---

The first edition of the Executive Diploma on International Law f or Honorary Consuls will run from 24<sup>th</sup> August to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. It will consist of four modules, each of which will be delivered online over the course of one month. The modules will consist of self-directed lessons that contain a mixture of pre-recorded lectures, interactive activities and information forums. At the end of each module a two-day e-workshop will impart the necessary skills and allow for peer-to-peer learning. Before progressing to the next module, participants will need to complete a knowledge assessment.

The course will be delivered through UNITAR's e-learning platform and Zoom.

## Learning Objectives

---

At the end of this online executive diploma, participants should be able to:

- Summarise the history and current importance of honorary consuls in contemporary diplomatic relations;
- Explain the legal framework governing honorary consuls;
- Describe the normal activities of an honorary consul and assess their responsibilities;
- Explain issues of practice and protocol;
- Describe and critically assess the important role of honorary consuls in the modern world;
- Discuss the future of the role of Honorary Consuls in particular in crisis situations such as evacuations, repatriations and other critical roles of the Honorary Consul in today's environment..

*As a developing nation, we welcome and encourage the use of honorary consuls. Our nation can certainly benefit from an active and effective honorary consul corps and we will be looking for graduates from the UNITAR program to serve as Honorary consuls.*

**Mohammed Farmajo Mohammed, President of Somalia, 2020**

## Certification

---

Participants who successfully complete the knowledge assessments of all four modules and participate in all e-workshops will obtain a UNITAR Executive Diploma.

## Target audience

---

The Executive diploma will be designed for honorary consuls, as well as those who intend to serve as honorary consuls.

## Registration and Course Fee

---

Interested participants are invited to register via UNITAR's website:

<https://www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/executive-diploma-international-diplomatic-law-honorary-consuls-0>

The course participation fee is 3500 USD for the whole executive diploma. A few fellowships for participants from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are available, reducing the fee to 2500 USD. To apply for the fellowship and reduced fee please provide UNITAR with a passport scan and a CV via [info.ilp@unitar.org](mailto:info.ilp@unitar.org).

Registration will be closed as soon as the course is full and places will be secured once the payment is confirmed.

# MODULE TOPICS



UN PHOTO

## 1. Codification of the Status of Honorary Consuls in International Law

---

During the first module participants will look at the following key aspects:

- Introduction to Multilateral Diplomacy;
- Introduction to International Law;
- Introduction to Law of International Organisations and the UN System;
- The role and historic development of honorary consuls in diplomatic relations.

The role and historic development of honorary consuls in diplomatic relations. The first module introduces participants to the context of multilateral diplomacy before turning to the field of public international law. Participants will deepen their knowledge of the fundamental principles of international law, focussing especially on the subjects, sources and implementation of the law. Consideration will then be given to the actors of international law with focus on international organisations, including the United Nations. Finally, the module will consider the historic development of the role of diplomatic representatives including honorary consuls.

The two day e-workshop at the end of the module will explore matters on the rule of law.



UN PHOTO/MARK GARTEN

*The Honorary Consul is a highly valuable tool for many small Island States including Antigua and Barbuda and we are encouraged that UNITAR is driving an effort to support the training and education of both serving Honorary Consuls and those wishing to serve as an Honorary Consul.*

**Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of  
Antigua and Barbuda - 2020**

## 2. Honorary consuls and their relationship with diplomatic and consular missions.

---

The second module will cover the core lessons below:

- The laws governing diplomatic relations;
- The privileges and immunities of honorary consuls;
- The relationship of honorary consuls with diplomatic and consular missions.

Building on the knowledge gained in the first module, this second module will consider in depth the law governing the work of honorary consuls. After an introduction on the laws governing diplomatic relations in general, the module will examine the privileges and immunities of state representatives and how they apply to honorary consuls. In doing so, the module will focus on the relevant provision of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 that apply to, and regulate the work of, honorary consuls. Finally, participants will examine the relationship between diplomatic and consular missions and how honorary consuls contribute to diplomacy and positive international relations.

The two day e-workshop at the end of the module will equip participants with the much needed negotiation skills.



# MODULE TOPICS



UN PHOTO/JEAN-MARC FERRE

*In this COVID era, we are seeing even a greater value in having Honorary Consuls in our constellation of diplomats.*

**Chet Greene, Foreign Minister Antigua and Barbuda -2020**

## 3. The Contemporary Use of Honorary Consuls

---

In the third module participants will explore the key role honorary consuls can play:

- Introduction to the work of honorary consuls;
- The Roles and Responsibilities of honorary consuls;
- The work of honorary consuls during times of crisis;
- Honorary Consuls' best practices.

This module will focus on the practicalities of serving as an honorary consul. After an introduction to the nature of work expected of an honorary consul, the module will consider their roles and responsibilities. The final section will focus on expectations placed on honorary consuls during times of crisis such as responding to natural disasters, civil unrest, or pandemics. Serving honorary consuls will engage with participants to explain their roles and highlight examples of best practice.

The two day e-workshop at the end of the module will provide participants with more insights on leadership especially in times of crisis.





UN PHOTO/RICK BAJORNAS

#### 4. Diplomatic Protocol for Honorary Consuls

---

During final module participants will dive into matters of protocol:

- Introduction to diplomatic protocol;
- Protocol in ceremonies and social occasions;
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption.

The final modules looks at matters of diplomatic protocol, starting by examining protocol in the multilateral world of the United Nations and its related bodies. In the following participants will learn how representatives of governments and from other bodies such as international and non-governmental organizations operate professionally operate in a multilateral environment, whether for a work-related social or conference event setting. Finally, matters of good conduct such as anti-bribery and anti-corruption will be discussed.

The last two-day e- workshop will focus on matters of UN protocol.

# DIPLOMATIC LAW AND RESPONSIBILITIES



UN PHOTO/JEAN-MARC FERRÉ

## Methodology

---

The first edition of the Intensive course on Diplomatic Law and Responsibilities will run from 24<sup>th</sup> August to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020. It will consist of self-directed lessons that contain a mixture of pre-recorded lectures, interactive activities and information forums and a final two-day workshop on UN Protocol.

This course promotes an interactive approach through lessons and multimedia material, stimulating critical thinking. Each part has its own learning objectives, as well as interactive online lessons, which guide participants through the contents. Contents and activities are practice-oriented and under a self-assessment approach, so participants will learn through practical examples and assignments associated with research and case scenarios.

The course will be delivered through UNITAR's e-learning platform and Zoom.

## Learning Objectives

---

At the end of this online executive diploma, participants should be able to:

- Explain the legal framework governing honorary consuls;
- Describe the normal activities of an honorary consul and assess their responsibilities;
- Explain issues of practice and protocol.

## Certification

---

Participants who successfully complete the knowledge assessments and participate in the e-workshop will obtain a certificate of completion.

## Target audience

---

This is an short course is aimed at providing honorary consuls or those seeking to take up such an appointment with an understanding of the roles, responsibilities and underlying legal framework governing the work of honorary consul.

## Registration and Course Fee

---

Interested participants are invited to register via UNITAR's website:

<https://www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/diplomatic-law-and-responsibilities-honorary-consuls>

The course participation fee is 1300 USD for the whole executive diploma. A few fellowships for participants from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are available, reducing the fee to 800 USD. To apply for the fellowship and reduced fee please provide UNITAR with a passport scan and a CV via [info.ilp@unitar.org](mailto:info.ilp@unitar.org).

# MODULE TOPICS



UN PHOTO/JEAN-MARC FERRE

## 1. International Diplomatic Law

---

In the first week participants will explore the key legal principles pertaining to honorary consuls:

- Introduction to International Law;
- The laws governing the work of honorary consuls;
- Introduction to the work of honorary consuls.

In this week participants will explore the core legal aspects of the work of honorary consuls, starting with lessons on public international law and the laws specifically addressing the work of honorary consuls.

In this week participants will be able to explore the topics with the help of self-paced online lessons via UNITAR's e-learning platform.





UN PHOTO/RICK BAJORNAS

## 2. Roles and Responsibilities for Honorary Consuls

---

During the second week participants will dive into practical matters of the work of honorary consul, including UN protocol:

- The Roles and Responsibilities of honorary consuls;
- Introduction to diplomatic protocol;
- Anti-Bribery and Corruption.

This week will commence by looking at the practicalities of serving as an honorary consul. After an introduction to the roles and responsibilities, matters of diplomatic protocol, will be addressed, starting by examining protocol in the multilateral world of the United Nations and its related bodies. Finally, matters of good conduct such as anti-bribery and anti-corruption will be discussed.

The last two-day workshop will focus on matters of UN protocol.

# CONTRIBUTORS



Dr. Anna Sabrina Wollmann

Sabrina joined the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in October 2017 and has been leading the International Law Programme for UNITAR's Division for Multilateral Diplomacy since 2018. She holds a doctorate from Maastricht University in which she specialised in migration law and citizenship. Sabrina has more than 9 years of research experience, working previously for the Top Institute for Evidence-Based Education Research (TIER), Maastricht University Law Faculty and the European Commission DG - Internal Market.



Richard H. Griffiths, Esq.

Richard is a member of Dentons global law firm's International law practice and a senior member of the Firm's Emerging democracies and diplomatic law practice group. He has more than 15 years' experience providing advice on diplomatic law, international policy advocacy, crisis management, and foreign policy advisory services to foreign national governments, including those of Antigua and Barbuda, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Libya, The State of Qatar, Sri Lanka, Somalia, St. Lucia, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, and Zimbabwe. Richard's diverse yet complementary capabilities include Public international law, diplomatic law sovereign and head of state advisory, foreign policy, government sector crisis communications and strategy, international lobbying, UN agency advocacy, and investment promotion. Richard is currently a senior international advisor to the State of Qatar and continues to advise various heads of state on political campaigns and is highly regarded for his strategic insight and collaborative approach.



## Professor J. Craig Barker

---

Professor J. Craig Barker is the Dean of the School of Law and Social Sciences at London South Bank University. He studied at the University of Glasgow, Scotland and has a distinguished 30-year teaching career having taught at the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Reading and Oxford, as well as at the University of Sussex where he was Director of Research and Head of the Sussex Law School. Being the author of nine books and numerous book chapters, Professor Barker is a leading authority in the field of public international law with specialist interest in diplomatic privileges and immunities, state immunity and the immunity of heads of states and other foreign officials. Most recently, he has been working on the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Professor Barker has served as advisor to many governments, non-governmental organisations, international corporations and law firms. He is a senior researcher with the Global Citizen Forum and a member of the Advisory Board of Arton Capital.

# UNITAR



UN PHOTO/VIOLAINE MARTIN



## About us

---

Established in 1965, UNITAR is an autonomous institution within the United Nations system with a mission to deliver innovative training and conduct research on knowledge systems to develop the capacities of its beneficiaries. As the training arm of the UN, its mission is to develop capacities to enhance global decision-making and to support country level action for shaping a better future.

At the heart of UNITAR, the Division for Multilateral Diplomacy (DMD) delivers training and support workshops to address the needs of diplomats, government officials, international civil servants and students to meet complex, global challenges.

UNITAR's Division for Multilateral Diplomacy activities cover a wide range of policy domains, including bilateral and multilateral negotiation, environmental and climate change diplomacy, economic diplomacy, human rights, diplomatic protocol, Agenda 2030 and other related topics, as well as capacities and skills development activities such as diplomatic report writing, public speaking, media relations and negotiation techniques, among many others.

## Contact

---

Dr. Anna Sabrina Wollmann  
International Law Programme,  
Division for Multilateral Diplomacy  
[anna.wollmann@unitar.org](mailto:anna.wollmann@unitar.org)

“UNITAR’s Division for Multilateral Diplomacy is at the forefront of our efforts to ensure that our future leaders are equipped for any challenges they will face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

Mr. Nikhil Seth

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General  
Executive Director, UNITAR



United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Division for Multilateral Diplomacy

7 bis, Avenue de la Paix

CH-1202 Geneva 2 - Switzerland

[www.unitar.org/mdp](http://www.unitar.org/mdp)

[info.ilp@unitar.org](mailto:info.ilp@unitar.org)

+41 (0)22 917 8677