

UNITAR
EXECUTIVE
DIPLOMA ON
INTERNATIONAL
LAW IN THE
21ST CENTURY

SECOND EDITION
19th – 23rd October 2020



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research



BACKGROUND



We have an agreement, for instance, today, a general agreement that the international law applies to cyberspace. But there is no agreement on how international humanitarian law applies to the cyber dimension of conflicts. [...] These are the areas where we still need international law, and in a way the role of the United Nations and namely the second commission of the General Assembly is vital. We need to find a minimum of consensus in the world on how to integrate these new technologies in the laws of war that were defined decades ago in a completely different context.

António Guterres

International law is the cornerstone of global interaction, politics, and policy. States as well as non-state actors in today's globalized and interconnected world are constantly influencing the development of international law and in turn find their actions influenced by it. In addition, new technologies are opening up new possibilities while also creating new challenges.

The Second Edition of UNITAR's Online Executive Diploma on International Law in the 21st century will explore new and cutting-edge legal topics. Over the course of one week the programme will dynamically inspire participants to become accomplished professionals in their respective field by providing them with the tools, information, and network they will need to do so.

The Online Executive Diploma on International Law will give participants the essential knowledge on the fundamentals of international law and the new developments driven by technologies. The programme will start by covering the underlying principles of public international law necessary to understand the importance, role and purpose of international law in the contemporary legal order. Once equipped with these tools to understand the international law principles, participants will discover the challenges arising in the field of the international law of the sea.

After exploring challenges in the "real world" during the first days, the second half of the week will allow participants to delve into the digital sphere and look at the implications of cyber development and artificial intelligence on international law. Here participants will be introduced to the rules of international humanitarian law governing cyber operations and tackle issues related to cyber warfare.

THE EXECUTIVE DIPLOMA



Methodology

The second edition of the online executive diploma is fully internet-based, allowing participants from all over the world to join without increasing their carbon footprint. The diploma will consist of 5 interactive online workshops, taking place on the platform Zoom, and will be moderated by an expert on the respective theme.

The material presented in the workshops will be interactive and assignments in the form of simulation exercises and online discussions will be given to participants to further advance their knowledge.

The participants will be eligible to receive a certificate of participation after the completion of all workshops.

Estimated learning time: 5 hours for workshop day, with the core workshop times being 10 am - 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 4 pm Geneva time, amounting to 25 hours in total.

Learning Objectives

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

- Identify the main actors and principles of public international law;
- Explain key actors and instruments of the International Law of the Sea;
- Describe the main rules of international humanitarian law and differentiate between those which apply to the cyberspace and the others;
- Apply the main rules governing international humanitarian law to cyber-warfare.

Target audience

The online executive diploma is aimed at students and professionals seeking a deeper understanding of international law.

Registration and Course Fee

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

<https://www.unitar.org/event/full-catalog/online-executive-diploma-international-law-21st-century-second-edition>

The course participation fee is 1490 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.

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

Contact

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WORKSHOP TOPICS



1. Public International Law

International Law is the cornerstone of global interaction, politics, and policy. As such, a sound understanding of its intricacies and fundamental principles is essential for productive work in today's globalized and interconnected world. This first workshop aims at giving the basic knowledge of international law to participants by introducing them to state responsibility, customary international law and the law of treaties. This workshop will ensure that all participants have a sound understanding of the fundamental principles and obtain the necessary tools to understand questions related to specific fields of international law.



2. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

The Law of the Sea as governed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) touches not only upon matters of state's responsibilities and ability to use the world's oceans, but also refers to important environmental matters and addresses questions of the use of marine natural resources. With major trading routes leading over the earth's oceans, the economic and business aspects are of keen interest to states and the private sector alike. In this workshop participants will explore the core principles and key actors under UNCLOS.



3. International Humanitarian Law and Cyber Operations

War remains a matter of great concern to humanity. Recent conflicts have demonstrated that the ravages of war continue to have a devastating impact especially on the civilian population. With the increasing amount of states developing military cyber capabilities, the interplay between the “cyber” and “real” realm of war needs to be addressed. This workshop will lay the foundations for all subsequent ones by introducing participants the rules governing cyberspace and their interplay with international humanitarian law. Participants will explore methods and means of cyber warfare, and learn to distinguish between the applicability of international humanitarian law to cyber operations in international armed conflicts and non-international armed conflicts.



4. Cyber Warfare and International Humanitarian Law

This workshop builds on the foundations of the two previous ones. After gaining the necessary knowledge about international humanitarian law, cyberspace and cyber-security, participants will deepen their knowledge on the threats of cyberwarfare. The workshop is aimed at shedding some light on the application of the international humanitarian law to cyber warfare and clarify the grey areas surrounding the transposition of the rules of the Geneva Convention to the cyber realm. Participants will be introduced to the relevant legal framework to consider, the difficulties of this “transposition” exercise and discuss potential avenues to overcome them.

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.

“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 21st century.”

Mr. Nikhil Seth

United Nations Assistant Secretary-General
Executive Director, UNITAR



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