

Factsheet Maritime Governance



Thematic Areas

- Maritime sector, seaports and commercial ships.
- Governance in seaports and in the maritime sector.
- International trade.
- Security, safety and preservation of lives at sea and on land.
- Wellbeing of social communities to lower poverty.
- Decent work in the maritime sector.
- Economic, social and political stability.
- International partnership and maritime trade.
- Sustainable development and environmental protection.



Our Services

- Training and facilitation.
- Coaching and mentoring.
- Training of Trainers (ToT).
- Governance advisory.
- Delivery of equipment.
- eLearning.
- Master degrees and postgraduates.



The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) – a specialized training agency of the United Nations – supports the (re-)establishment of peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG 16) by enabling individuals and organizations to contribute meaningfully to sustainable peace.

With over 60 years of experience in capacity building, we provide customised, creative and results-based learning solutions, carefully crafted for countries and communities emerging from conflict and facing specific development needs. At the core of our success is our specific methodology that allows for the creation of powerful and inspiring spaces, products and services (online and face-to-face) for highquality learning and collaboration.

Our training programmes have mentoring and coaching as their key ingredients as well as promote participation, dialogue, local ownership and multiplication of knowledge for sustainable impact and behavioural change.





Flagship Projects

Ports Governance Project in the Gulf of Guinea, West and Central Africa

Enhancing resilience to safety and security risks by implementing innovative training initiatives aimed at preventing safety and security incidents. The main objective of this project is to contribute to reducing the vulnerability of ports in West and Central Africa by strengthening the protection of port activities against risks in terms of both safety and port security, namely by building the capacities of civil and port actors. The specific objectives are to strengthen the capacities of port, administrative and private actors in the field of the development, implementation and evaluation of emergency plans in terms of port safety and security; to strengthen the capacities of port players in the prevention of security risks - in particular within the framework of the ISPS Code; to strengthen capacities in port crisis management; to build capacity in the area of dangerous goods management and marine pollution response and finally to raise awareness of judicial police officers on the risks of attacks in the maritime domain and strengthen their capacities in terms of targeting and control of a risk vector, intelligence sharing and crime scene management. UNITAR coordinates and manages this project together with the local partner ISMI (Interregional Maritime Security Institute).

Maritime Governance Project in Malaysia

Provision of drones and developing a drone unit for the Malaysian Coast Guard (MMEA) as support for improved maritime surveillance. The overall strategic objective is to improve the capabilities of the Malaysian maritime authorities in maritime surveillance using optical drones in order to detect maritime threats at an early stage and initiate countermeasures. In addition, the aim is to document detected offences in an evidence-proof manner and to initiate law enforcement measures, especially by the coast guard. Those measures also serve to protect critical infrastructure. The main objective is to provide the MMEA with optical drones and to develop a dedicated drone unit in the establishment plan as a professional unit responsible for monitoring and carrying out actions in port areas, coastal waters and on the high seas to enforce laws and regulations. UNITAR manages the overall coordination, monitoring and follow-up of the project to reach the following objectives: to assist in establishing the institutional framework of the drone unit, the creation of the drone department, the procurement and delivery of the drones. Finally, the project also aims at enhancing interagency and international cooperation possibilities and at establishing a national maritime coordination mechanism, which will increase its future engagement and create synergies in the Indo-Pacific region. 300 Beneficiaries B Taining Events

In 2023:

Global Scale

Maritime governance refers to the management and administration of ports and ships, including the development of policies and procedures, allocation of resources, and oversight of operations. The goal of maritime governance is to ensure that the port and ships operate in a safe, secure, efficient, and sustainable manner, while also contributing to the economic development of the region. Safety and security are essential components of maritime governance as they ensure its efficient and effective functioning, protection of people and cargo, and facilitate global trade and economic activity. The Maritime Governance Unit is a growing unit within the Division for Peace of UNITAR soon based in the upcoming Brussels office, focusing on enhancing safety and security in seaports and on ships. It provides innovative solutions, including safety and security training, equipment delivery, capacity building, and knowledge sharing, to support seaports, ships, and authorities. UNITAR's Maritime Governance training projects help port and ship management and employees within the public sector and private sector understand the risks associated with port operations and develop practical strategies to mitigate those risks. In terms of safety, port governance training involves training in the implementation of safety measures to prevent accidents and incidents. In terms of security, on the other hand, it involves training in measures to take to prevent security threats, such as terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking, human trafficking, wild animal trafficking and theft. The overall goal is to improve the Sustainable Development Goals within the maritime sector through UNITAR's Maritime Governance projects.

